Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الرأي»

Volume 22 Number 6623 AMMAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1997, RABI II 28, 1418 Price: Jordan 200 fils

Islamic militants gun down two Egyptians

MINYA (AFP) — Islamic militants shot dead a policeman and a suspected informant in a southern Egyptian village Saturday, police said. Saber Marei Ali, a 40-year-old police officer, and a civil servant, Ahmed Mahsser Ahmed, 37, were gunned down as they walked along a road to Safay village in the Abu Qorqas region. Police sealed off the area and launched a manhunt for the gunmen. Ahmed's father and brother were killed earlier this year by Egypt's biggest outlawed Islamic militant group, the Gamaa Islamiyya, which suspects the whole family of collaborating with police. The Gamaa spearheads a militant campaign of violence to overthrow Egypt's secular government which has left 1,224 dead since it began in March 1992.

8 killed in Turkey clashes

ANKARA (AFP) — Eight people were killed Friday in fighting between separatist Kurdish rebels and pro-government Kurdish guards in Turkey's troubled southeast, the Anatolia News Agency reported Saturday. The clash broke out as rebels from the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) attacked a village in the province of Hakkari where Turkish, Iraqi and Iranian borders converge, it said. Six PKK members and two government-paid Kurdish guards were killed. More than 26,000 people have been killed in PKK-related violence in southeast Turkey since 1984 when the rebels launched their armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland. The government-paid Kurdish guards, numbering around 60,000, play a vital role in Ankara's fight against the PKK.

King says all parties have right to engage in dialogue, air views

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday reaffirmed that the 1997 general elections will be held on schedule and stressed that dialogue with the government must involve all political shades in the Kingdom.

Speaking to reporters after attending the opening session of the "Industrial Policy Seminar and Round Table" meeting at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the King said "parliamentary elections constitute an essential part of democratic life. The 12th parliament has played its part and carried out its duty during one of the most critical phases of this country's history... Therefore we are moving towards the coming general elections for the new parliament and we will pursue the path we have chosen."

On the question of dialogue between the government and the opposition, the King said: "The dialogue's door is open but it should be held with all groups because all groups have the right to participate in this dialogue and to express their views. And if they [the opposition] wish to do so, they are welcome, but if they do not wish to take part in the dialogue, the people will decide when they elect a new parliament."

Asked about his expectations from U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the region, the King said: "We will wait and see. We remain optimistic because there is no other choice but peace, a just and comprehensive solution to the region's problems in a manner that would satisfy all sides."

During the meeting that was attended by HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Jordanian and Japanese officials and industrialists, King Hussein stressed that Jordan stands on a solid ground and is determined to consecrate efforts to serving peace and human relations.



His Majesty King Hussein speaks at the Industrial Policy Seminar and Round Table meeting on Saturday. Also attending the meeting were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Deputy Prime Minister Andullah Ensour (See story on page 8) (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

The meeting is part of the 5th Scientific Week which was initiated by Crown Prince Hassan, the chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), it aims at the interaction between the related industrial and technological fields in Jordan and Japan in order to identify the Kingdom's needs and the future direction of Jordan's industries.

King Hussein praised Japan and said that the Far-Eastern country "is an example to the world and has been certainly an example to us. He said that he hoped that Jordan would move away from narrow-mindedness and that Jordanians would not only look at their domestic problems as if they were insurmountable. "Peace was very important to us here after a period of war and tremendous suffering and hopefully it will be comprehensive in time, and we will do whatever we can to make it so.

"I still do not find that we here have taken the steps that our friends took in Japan to benefit from peace in the sense that you set in your minds that the true victory is seeking that way all ahead of others in terms of industry and of knowledge and standards," the King said.

"And we, as well as you, do not have many natural resources. Since the human being is the most important element of all."

Addressing the Japanese side at the seminar, the King said: "You successfully managed and achieved the greatest achievements that are our source of respect. We are still running into difficulties every now and then." Referring to the opposition, the King added: "[We have] people who say they do not want to normalise and who do not want to take advantage of what peace has offered." But he added that "Jordanians are ready to move in every field to close the gap between us and others to the benefit of all because you have healthy competition and you have a strong foundation on which you stand."

"We are at the start of the stage with the sceptics who like us to remain in our old mould and not to open up our minds and not to open up to the rest of the world.

"You as government and people have achieved the miracle that won the highest respect of all generations and all peoples at all times."

He added: "I think that the size of a country does not matter, I think that other resources do not matter as much as human beings. We are still in the process of trying to put our house in order and our thinking in order and to concentrate on the positive rather than the negative, so we can achieve much in the future.

"We are so proud of this relationship and friendship and mutual trust and confidence. We are thankful for you sharing with us your experiences and knowledge."

Addressing the same session, Prince Hassan said that he thought the challenge was not to move industrial and technological experience from Tokyo to

(Continued on page 7)

Israel will not withdraw from W. Bank according to treaty

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel said Saturday that it would not go ahead with the next stage of redeployment from the West Bank until the Palestinians crack down on Islamists in the self-rule territories.

"There is no question of going ahead with any pullback as long as the Palestinian [National] Authority refuses to wage the fight against terrorist organisations in the territories under its control," said David Bar-Illan, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu.

Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said in a letter to Mr. Netanyahu that the withdrawal is scheduled to occur on September 7, under a U.S.-brokered agreement between the two sides.

But Mr. Bar-Illan said that the September 7 date did not figure in the accord brokered in January for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from most of the West Bank city of Hebron.

"It only says that the redeployment from three rural zones of Judea and Samaria [West Bank] must finish by mid-1998, on August 1," he said.

Mr. Bar-Illan added that Mr. Netanyahu wanted to "dispense with these withdrawals" and concentrate efforts on a final status peace treaty with the Palestinians.

The final status talks, due to end by mid-1999, are to confront the thorniest issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — the final status of Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories, and the fate of Jewish settlements and Palestinian refugees.

The issue of the three-stage Israeli army withdrawal from areas of the West Bank which remain under its control, laid out in the 1995 interim accords, is one of the elements which has brought the peace process to a six-month standstill.

The first stage of redeployment never occurred, when the Palestinians angrily rejected Israel's announced handover last March of nine per cent of the West Bank as too small.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to leave the United States on September 9 for her first official Mideast tour, and Palestinian officials insisted Saturday that the pullback should happen before her arrival.

Israeli opposition chief offers southern Lebanon initiative

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's opposition leader Ehud Barak Friday said U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the region should be used to renew an initiative to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon.

"I think when Albright goes to [the Syrian capital] Damascus we can turn to her with a renewed initiative for an Israeli-Lebanese agreement for a staged, supervised exit from Lebanon, slowly, with Syrian guarantees [and] with entry of the forces of the Lebanese army and an international force," Mr. Barak said.

Mr. Barak presented his initiative in an interview with Israel's Channel Two television.

Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said earlier Friday that Israel was far from leaving south Lebanon after a bloody August capped by a "friendly fire" incident Thursday in which four Israeli soldiers burned to death.

"[If] we depart from Lebanon, Lebanon will enter us — it will reach the Galilee fence. And so we are far from finding a stable solution in Lebanon that will enable us to leave," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel's army radio.

"We've tried for some time with the Americans to renew the political process between U.S. and Syria which would certainly influence the situation in Lebanon but I think it is preferable to wait until her arrival," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel television when asked if he would raise Lebanon with Ms. Albright.

Israel has long appealed to Syria to use its influence to curb anti-Israel guerrillas in south Lebanon. Syria, Israel's arch-foe, is the main power broker in Lebanon with some 35,000 troops stationed there.

Mr. Barak, a former army chief of staff who conducted negotiations with his Syrian counterpart under Israel's previous government, said in his plan that first Israel, Washington and Syria would have to agree to back the Lebanon initiative.

Then would come "several weeks" of negotiations with Lebanon. After an agreement was reached, Israel would withdraw in stages from its 15 kilometres wide occupation zone.

Mr. Barak said that, for instance, after quiet reigned in a selected area for three weeks Israel could leave it. The whole process, he said, could be accomplished in a number of months.

Late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had said he thought a peace deal could be reached with Lebanon in nine months, but progress on a Lebanon deal foundered over Israel's negotiations with Syria.

Damascus demands a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights which Israel captured from Syria in 1967. In nearly five years of peace talks the sides failed to cut a deal. Peace talks have yet to resume under Mr. Netanyahu who took office in June 1996.

Mr. Netanyahu is on record opposing a withdrawal from the strategic Heights. Rabin had said the extent of a pullback would equal the extent of the peace, a formula backed by Mr. Barak.

PNA delegation to visit U.S. ahead of Albright trip; Netanyahu, Arafat exchange accusations

Combined agency dispatches

A PALESTINIAN delegation will go to Washington for talks ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the Middle East next month, an aide of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Saturday.

"There is a high level delegation which will visit Washington before the arrival of Secretary of State Albright in the region," Mr. Arafat's aide Nabil Abu Rudeina told Agence France Presse.

He did not specify the date of the visit or who would make the trip.

Ms. Albright is to leave the U.S. on September 9 for her first official visit to the Middle East, to include Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The delegation aims "to create the proper positive atmosphere to ensure the success of Ms. Albright's visit," Mr. Rudeina said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu accused each other of failing to honour their commitments to peace ahead of Ms. Albright's visit.

In a telephone discussion with Ms. Albright, Mr. Arafat accused Israel of "not respecting the accords with the Palestinians," the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported late Friday.

During their talks, Ms. Albright spoke of ways to advance the peace process, which has been frozen for more than five months, WAFA said.

Mr. Netanyahu, also speaking by phone to Ms. Albright, accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of not respecting "commitments in the area of the fight against terrorism," his office said.

The hardline premier has accused Mr. Arafat of failing to do enough to crack down on terrorism after a July 30 suicide bombing in Jerusalem which killed 14 Israelis and prompted Israel to slap crippling sanctions on the Palestinian territories.

Mr. Netanyahu's hawkish infrastructure minister, Ariel Sharon, said Saturday that Ms. Albright's first priority must be Israel's security.

Mr. Sharon told state radio that the U.S. must "never forget that Israel's security and very existence is the cardinal subject."

But Mr. Sharon, who recently called Mr. Arafat a "war criminal," said he believed it was possible to reach an agreement with the Palestinians.

"Mr. Arafat himself, in my opinion, with him it is impossible to reach peace," Mr. Sharon told Israel Radio.

He said the Palestinian side had "not fulfilled any of the commitments it took upon itself."

"I am for talks with all the Arab states and for reaching peace with all the Arab states. I am for peace talks with the Palestinians," he said.

Mr. Sharon, who opposed the landmark 1993 Israeli-Palestinian interim deal, said the government chose to uphold the Oslo accord but it needed "adjustments and corrections."

Two Israeli police, four Palestinians injured in clash

QALANDYA (AFP) — Two Israeli police officers and four Palestinians were wounded on Saturday in clashes in the Palestinian refugee camp of Qalandya, sources on both sides said. Violence broke out when an Israeli police van entered the camp, located in the northern West Bank, in pursuit of a "suspect" Palestinian vehicle. Two police officers were lightly injured when Palestinian residents of the camp threw rocks in an attempt to block the van. Police responded by firing rubber bullets, injuring four Palestinians, who were taken to hospital. Another Palestinian was arrested by police, an AFP correspondent reported. The suspect vehicle was able to enter the camp and the driver fled on foot, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

Arafat says PNA to demand compensation for measures

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will demand compensation from Israel for economic losses caused by the month-long closure of the territories, PNA President Yasser Arafat said Saturday.

"We will demand compensation for our losses in the entire West Bank, and especially in Bethlehem where damage has been greater," Mr. Arafat told a public meeting in the Biblical West Bank town.

He also said tax funds withheld by Israel from the PNA as part of sanctions in the wake of a July 30 suicide bombing increase to some $85 million at the end of August.

"They are withholding now 340 million shekels [$97 million], and they have only returned 42 million shekels [$12 million]," he told the audience.

Israel has imposed a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip for four weeks preventing nearly 100,000 Palestinians from reaching jobs in Israel and costing some $5 to $8 million dollars a day in losses.

Israel also kept a specific blockade on Bethlehem, closing off all entrances to the town and its surrounding villages for four weeks, until the siege was lifted last Wednesday.

That blockade crippled Bethlehem's vital tourism sector, costing all sectors some $12 million, according to Bethlehem mayor Hanna Nasser.

In the same series of sanctions, Israel froze tax and customs moneys which it collects from Palestinians and is committed to transfer monthly to the PNA.

The original amount frozen was around $40 million. Israel released $12 million of those funds earlier in August in an easing of the sanctions.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu has refused to lift the bulk of sanctions until Mr. Arafat made widescale arrests of Islamists who he says are planning further anti-Israeli attacks.

Mandela bids to ease Sudan-Uganda tensions after Garang rejects talks

PRETORIA (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela will begin hosting Sunday a two-day summit between rival African presidents Omar Al Bashir of Sudan and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, in a bid to ease tensions between the countries, official sources said here.

South Africa's Foreign Ministry described the presidential meeting, held at Khartoum's request, as a chance "to discuss sensitive issues," after hopes were dashed of holding peace talks involving parties to Sudan's 14-year civil war.

After meeting Thursday with Mr. Mandela here, Sudanese rebel chief John Garang dismissed the idea of sitting down with officials of the Khartoum leaders, whom he accused of being self-serving.

Instead, the discussions between Sudan and Uganda, who have traded accusations of supporting each other's rebels, will be limited to improving ties between the two states, officials said.

Planning of the summit — which will also include the participation of Zimbabwe Head of State Robert Mugabe who presides over the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) — has strained Pretoria press relations.

Mr. Mandela announced on August 19 that South Africa would host Sudanese peace talks involving Colonel Garang, General Bashir and Mr. Museveni, and his spokesman confirmed earlier this week that "everyone will be there."

The South African president Thursday blamed the media for going too far in its "speculation" about the summit. Commentators, meanwhile said Col. Garang's pruning of the talks marked another setback in Mr. Mandela's attempt to mediate Africa's many conflicts.

South African Foreign Ministry spokesman Marco Boni said Sunday's meeting was in line with Mr. Mandela's commitment to promoting dialogue auspices of the seven-nation east African Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

"It has been incorrectly perceived as a one-off attempt to persuade Col. Garang to meet the Sudanese president," Mr. Boni said. "The conflict in Sudan has been a protracted one, and there are no instant solutions to the problem."

Mr. Mandela called for a ceasefire and talks to end the Sudanese conflict after meeting with Gen. Bashir, who paid a surprise visit on August 12. The South African met Mr. Museveni in May during an official visit.

Representatives of Uganda and Sudan have met several times, notably in a June 26 summit in the Kenyan town of Eldoret spearheaded by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi under the aegis of IGAD.

The Islamic regime in Khartoum has in recent months launched a broad diplomatic campaign to end its isolation by the international community, led by the United States.

Khartoum has signed an accord with six smaller rebel movements from the country's south, where mainly Christian and animist groups, including Col. Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), have waged war against the central government.

In July, Gen. Bashir also accepted terms of a 1994 peace deal signed with Col. Garang's movement, which he had earlier rejected. The agreement allows the south a measure of future sovereignty.

Kampala, which has in the past voiced moral support for Col. Garang, earlier this month called the Sudanese

(Continued on page7)

Syria seeks U.S. pressure on Israel to shift policy

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas has urged Washington before a Middle East trip by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to put pressure on Israel to change its policies, official media said Saturday.

Official newspapers said Ms. Albright's visit was "doomed to failure" if she did not press Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu to accept withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967.

"The world community perceives exactly that Israel alone is the side that blocks the peace process in the region. The U.S. administration should pressure Mr. Netanyahu to submit to the world community's will," official media quoted Mr. Tlas as saying on Syria's navy day Friday.

"Syria will not give up even a small portion of land and will not be frightened by threats...We will work for peace and fight against capitulation," he said.

Ms. Albright is to make her first visit to the Middle East starting on Sept. 9. The tour will last for a week and include Israel, the Palestinian self-rule territories, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

"Every effort that is not based on international legitimacy resolutions and pushing Tel Aviv rulers to accurate commitment to them and to resume peace talks from the point at which they stopped and on the same bases of Madrid [Middle East conference in 1991], is doomed to failure," the Syrian daily newspaper Tishreen said.

"The government of Netanyahu, with world consensus, is the one halting the progress of the peace process... and pushing this process should be by pressuring Israeli rulers to stop their aggressive policies in the occupied lands, south Lebanon and the Golan," it said.

Syrian-Israeli talks ground to halt when Mr. Netanyahu, after becoming prime minister in 1996, rejected handing back the strategic Golan in return for peace with Syria.

Syria wants full withdrawal.

The previous Israeli Labour government said the scope of withdrawal would match the depth of peace.

The English-language daily Syria Times said Labour had agreed to full withdrawal and the commitment was lodged with Washington.

It said the U.S. and Ms. Albright should make sure the visit "will be grasped as an opportunity to announce officially the real existence of that 'deposit'... and to persuade Israel to reaccept it."

"At the same it has to put heavy pressure on the Jewish state to refrain from the unilateral steps. The issue is up for early resolution in Washington and there is no good reason to delay...." it said.

EU envoy in Syria ahead of Albright visit

DAMASCUS (AFP) — European Union (EU) envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Angel Moratinos, visited Syria on Saturday for talks on the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process ahead of a tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Mr. Moratinos and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa discussed the latest developments in the peace process and "Israeli intransigence," the official Syrian news agency SANA said.

The EU envoy's talks came 10 days ahead of the first official visit to the region by Ms. Albright, which will take her to Israel, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and possibly Lebanon.

Mr. Moratinos told reporters here: "We hope that the tour by Mrs. Albright in the Middle East will achieve a big step on the road to peace."

He said the EU had "ideas" on how to break the deadlock in peace talks that it had discussed with the U.S., and that the two sides should work as a team in resolving the crisis.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been halted since March over Jewish settlement building in Arab east Jerusalem. The crisis was exacerbated by a July 30 suicide bombing in Jerusalem that left 16 dead and was followed by tough Israeli sanctions against the Palestinian territories.

Israel and Syria broke of peace negotiations in February 1996 over the issue of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967.



ISTANBUL PROTEST: Turkish riot police clash with Islamist demonstrators protesting against a new anti-Islamic school law during a rally in Istanbul Friday. Over 100 people were arrested in various protests throughout the country (AFP photo)

'Arrested Palestinian land-dealer feared dead'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian realtor has disappeared since his arrest by Palestinian police nine weeks ago, apparently on suspicion of selling land to Israelis, and may now be dead, a human rights group said Saturday.

Shafiq Abdul Wahab, 52, has not been seen since Palestinian military intelligence agents took him from his realestate office in the West Bank town of Ramallah for questioning on June 21, the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) said.

"Strong suspicions exist indicating that he was 'made to disappear' by military intelligence," the group said in a statement.

"The PHRMG is concerned that Mr. Abdul Wahab has been kidnapped illegally by military intelligence and is either being held in a secret detention centre or has been seriously harmed or killed," it said.

Mr. Abdul Wahab's wife, Majida, who was present when he was arrested, made a written request on June 22 to learn where her husband was being held but she has received no answer to this or later appeals, PHRMG said.

After an appeal to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, a commission was formed on July 7 to look into Mr. Abdul Wahab's disappearance, but until now it has made no report.

The PHMRG said there was no information on the reasons for the arrest, but Mr. Abdul Wahab's disappearance in June coincided with a crackdown by self-rule security forces against Palestinians suspected of selling land to Jews. In May and June, the bodies of three suspected land-dealers were found dead, killed execution-style, in areas around Ramallah, while a fourth reportedly committed suicide while being detained by Palestinian police.

Crown Prince to open conference on communication and diplomacy

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference entitled "Communication and Diplomacy: New Horizons in the Information Age" will open at Amra Hotel Sept. 6 under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

The conference will be attended by a large number of academics specialising in communication studies, journalists, diplomats, and prominent politicians and intellectuals from Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, Palestine, Tunisia, Pakistan, the U.S. and Britain in addition to representatives of regional and international organisations.

Participants will review 40 working papers covering a wide range of issues dealing with international communication, the new world order, the media and free expression, challenges facing the media and communications in the coming century, general communication and diplomacy, utilisation of communication techniques in teaching and training students of journalism and employees in information institutions, the philosophy of communication and its history and theories among others.

The conference aims to shed light on developments and changes in the fields of diplomacy both in concepts and function as a result of the advent of the new age of information over the past few years.

The conference will also discuss the role of media technology in boosting human contacts and relations and in removing barriers separating nations. It will also focus attention on modern developments and changes in the present age as well as the experiences of ancient oriental people like the Canaanites, Phoenicians, Aramians and Nabateans in the field of the media two thousand years ago and their impact on history.

On the sidelines of the conference, a workshop entitled: "Specialised Reporting for Senior Journalists: Coverage of International Issues" will be held and will be addressed by a notable American media expert.

The organisers of the conference are the Institute of Diplomacy, Yarmouk University, and the Arab-U.S. Association for Communication Education.

Iran still wants U.S. forces out of Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's new Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani said Saturday the presence of the U.S. military in the region was a threat and called on Gulf countries to establish a new security strategy without foreign forces.

Mr. Shamkhani called for an end to the "unwarranted" presence of foreign military in the region, particularly the U.S., saying this would "certainly reduce regional tension," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

"The U.S. Fifth Fleet has turned the Persian Gulf into a test ground for its weaponry," he said.

"This, besides being a threat to the whole region, is also a source of pollution in the Persian Gulf waters, posing a serious threat to health, environment and economy of the entire region," Mr. Shamkhani told IRNA.

He said there was a need for "sincere and honest consultations with the neighbouring states, the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms in particular, to establish new security arrangements without the presence of foreign forces in the region."

Iran and the U.S. have not had diplomatic relations since 1980, with Washington accusing Tehran of sponsoring international terrorism and of building up its weapons capabilities.

Group of masked men torch Bahrain restaurant; no casualties reported

MANAMA (AFP) — Masked men hurled Molotov cocktails into a restaurant in the Bahraini capital Friday, destroying half the property but causing no casualties, the Bahrain Tribune reported Saturday.

"A group of masked men stormed the Dairy Queen restaurant and hurled Molotov cocktails," the interior ministry said in a statement quoted by the newspaper.

"The attack caused 50 per cent damage, the staff and the customers escaped the fire and there are no casualties or injuries."

A staff member told the newspaper there were only three customers at the time of the attack.

In a statement received in Cyprus, exiled opposition group Bahrain Freedom Movement accused Bahrain security forces of setting the restaurant on fire to create a pretext to launch a sweep in the vicinity.

The London-based opposition group said at least 30 people were arrested.

Since December 1994 Bahrain has been hit by sporadic unrest spearheaded by Shiite Muslims who are demanding the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975 and the release of political prisoners.

At least 38 people have died in the unrest, many of them Asian expatriates targeted in attacks.

Qadhafi: Lockerbie sanctions will crumble

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said most of the world would eventually break sanctions imposed on Libya since 1992 because of alleged involvement with the crash of a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988.

"All members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity, the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Arab League, have said they would reconsider their stand if the United States and Britain do not accept a compromise," Colonel Qadhafi said in a television broadcast monitored in Tunis.

"The U.S. and Britain will be alone at the end. The breaking of these sanctions will happen," he said in a nearly four-hour talk broadcast live by state television overnight from Friday to Saturday.

In 1992 the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Libya for failing to hand over for trial in the U.S. or Britain two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie explosion which killed 270 people.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya, an arms embargo, a ban on sales of some oil-related equipment and a downgrading of diplomatic ties.

Libya says the two suspects cannot get a fair trial in Britain or the U.S. The Arab League has proposed they be tried under Scottish law, before a Scottish judge, at the seat of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Britain and the U.S. have called the offer unacceptable.

In recent months, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League have been pressing the Security Council to accept a compromise.

Col. Qadhafi has made no comment on a visit to Libya by British politicians early in August in what they said was an effort to break the deadlock.

The delegation included former Liberal Party leader David Steel and former Bexley Heath Tory MP Sir Cyril Townsend, who is director for the advancement of Arab-British understanding.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Cartoons
15:00 Energy Express
16:00 American Chart Show
18:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Fresh Prince-of-Belair
20:00 ..Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:30 National Geographic
21:10 Renegade
22:00 News in English
22:30 One West Waikiki
23:15 Sisters

PRAYER TIMES

04:44.....Fajr
06:05(Sunrise) Duha
12:36.....Dhuhr
16:12.....'Asr
19:07.....Maghreb
20:28'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunication Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295 English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dropping gradually and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman.....18/29
Aqaba.....24/36
Deserts.....15/32
Jordan Valley.....22/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhles Halaseh 5519220
Dr. Ruhi Sukkar 856457
Dr. Fadl Al Khatib 865456
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 790104
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rabah Al Bourini 990312
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information ..08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6
Akileh Maternity.....6424441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ...642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
10:05 Bombay (RJ)
10:15 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:00 Jeddah (RJ)
17:05 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05 Paris (RJ)
18:50 London (RJ)
19:05 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
19:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 Athens (RJ)
20:40 Vienna (RJ)
20:55 Detroit, Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
21:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
00:45 Beirut (add) (RJ)
01:05 Cairo (RJ)
03:30 Rome (RJ)
04:15 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
04:15 Al 'Ain (RJ)

Other Flights
12:00 Sanaa (IY)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:35 Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Al 'Arish (PF)
15:20 Moscow (SU)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:35 Cairo (MS)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
00:59 Cairo (MS)
02:15 London (BA)
07:20 London (BA)
07:20 Tel Aviv (LY)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:45 Aqaba (RW)
10:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:20 Tel Aviv (RW)
19:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:20 Aqaba (RW)
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:00 Madrid (RJ)
07:00 Larnaca (RJ)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:15 Vienna (RJ)
14:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
19:30 Rome (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
21:00 Al 'Ain (add) (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:20 Beirut (RJ)
05:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:40 Damascus (RJ)
21:45 New Delhi (RJ)
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)
02:45 Dubai (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)
00:15 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
03:00 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

Other Flights
07:00 Beirut (ME)
07:55 London (BA)
13:00 Sanaa (IY)
13:30 Jeddah SV)
14:25 Doha (GF)
15:30 Al 'Arish (PF)
16:35 Moscow (SU)
22:25 Cairo (MS)
00:45 Amsterdam (KL)
02:00 Cairo (MS)
07:00 Beirut (ME)
07:55 London (BA)
08:15 Tel Aviv (LY)

Royal Wings (RW)
07:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
09:15 Aqaba (RW)
10:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:55 Tel Aviv (RW)
21:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:50 Aqaba (RW)

DARAT AL
SUMMER '97



MINISTER OPENS A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Bassam Saket Saturday opens a workshop on coordinating Arab positions for the International Conference of Radio Telecommunications. Dr. Saket told the participants that telecommunications is an important field of human development. Participants from Tunisia, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen,Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and representatives of the European Union took part (Petra photo)

Tenders awarded for camp infrastructure improvements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Palestinian Affairs Saturday announced that four tenders worth JD97,557 have been awarded to local firms to improve roads within four Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom.

Department director Ibrahim Tarshihi said the projects will be carried out in the Wahdat, Zarqa, Baqaa, and Irbid refugee camps, and will be completed by the end of this year.

The government will spend a total of JD173 million to improve the infrastructure in the Kingdom's 13 refugee camps during the implementation of its JD400 million social security package, which is to be executed over several years, Mr. Tarshihi said in a statement Friday.

The urgent improvement of infrastructure and social conditions within the camps does not mean the government is carrying out a permanent settlement of refugees, he explained.

These improvements have no political end and do not contravene the final status negotiations of the Palestinian refugee problem, Mr. Tarshihi stressed.

The government is currently seeking funding for these projects and has acquired a $30 million loan from the World Bank and a DM20 million (JD 7.6 million) grant from the German government, and will make efforts to raise funds from foreign countries and international institutions to cover the cost of these projects, he concluded.

Committee releases figures for new university students

AMMAN (Petra) — The state universities admissions coordinating committee Saturday announced that 13,218 freshman students will be accepted for the 1997-98 academic year.

Committee Chairman Walid Ma'ani told a press conference that of this total, 966 students will be non-Jordanians Arab and foreign students, and 20 per cent of the students will be those on the "Royal Endowment list ," five per cent will be the sons and daughters of Ministry of Education teachers, five per cent will be Jordanian students who obtained tawjihi in previous years, and five per cent will be Jordanians who obtained tawjihi certificates abroad.

In addition, Dr. Ma'ani said the state universities will accept 1,200 Ministry of Education teachers seeking higher degrees, 100 students specialising in fine arts (at Yarmouk University), 600 student in evening classes at Mu'ta University, 30 students who had obtained a nursing diploma, and 200 students from schools in underprivileged areas of Jordan.

Dr. Ma'ani said 3,330 students will enrol at the University of Jordan, 1,940 at Yarmouk University, 2,180 at Mu'ta University,1,458 at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, 510 at the Hashemieh University of Zarqa, and 620 at Al al Bayt University in Mafraq.

He added that the names of the 1,200 students coming from underprivileged regions will be announced in the coming two weeks.

Dr. Ma'ani said the minimum grade point average for admission to the University of Jordan was 96.2 per cent for medicine, 95 per cent for dentistry, 94.7 per cent for pharmacy, 92.6 per cent for engineering, and 81.8 per cent for physical education.

At Yarmouk University the minimum averages were 88.2 per cent for computer science, 88.9 per cent for English, 89.1 per cent for modern languages, and 80 per cent for physical education.

At Mu'ta University the averages were 90.3 per cent for electrical engineering, 89.7 per cent for mechanical engineering, 89.4 per cent for civil engineering, 84.9 per cent for computer science, 77.4 per cent for sciences, and 76.8 per cent for Arabic.

Jordan University of Science and Technology said the minimum averages were: 95.3 per cent for medicine, 94.9 per cent for dentistry, 93.4 per cent for pharmacy, 91.9 per cent for electrical engineering, and 90.7 per cent for mechanical engineering. At Al Hashemieh University, the minimum average grade was 86.4 per cent for computer science, at Al al Bayt University the average was 78.7 per cent for physics and 79.2 per cent for religion.

Ministry submits new efficiency strategy during council meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki Saturday presented to the Council of Ministers a general outline of the new overall strategy designed to increase efficiency that was adopted by his ministry and affiliated institutions.

Following the meeting, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said Dr. Mulki detailed the ministry's present situation, future plans, and the expected services from the ministry, which was formed by the merger of the ministries of industry and trade and supply last year.

The Cabinet was also briefed by the directors of the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC), the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), and the Institution of Standards and Specifications on strategies for promoting their activities, restructuring programmes, and training and rehabilitation of staff.

The new strategies are designed to boost the efficiency of the ministry and affiliated institutions without a reduction in employment, except those due to retire, Dr. Mutawi said.

The Council of Ministers examined a $6 million loan agreement with China to finance the construction of Al Hassan sports city in Irbid and approved it to be reimbursed in the form of exports to China, he added.

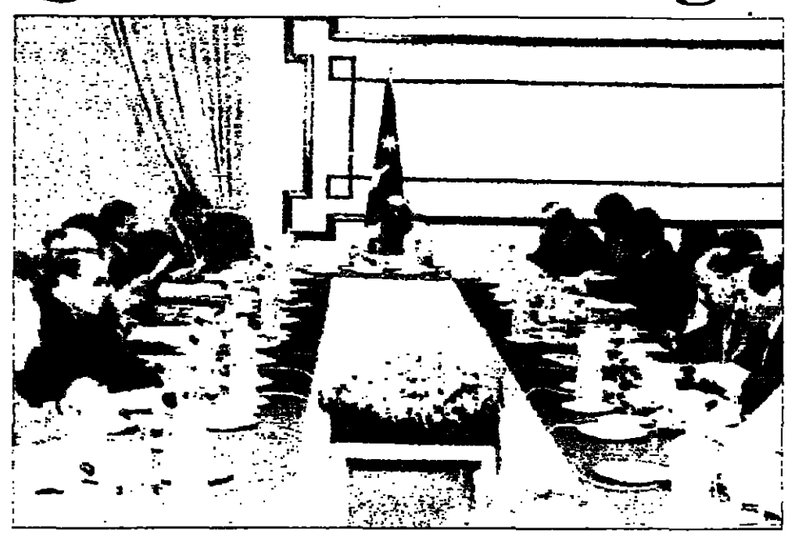
The council also approved an agreement to prevent dual taxation between Jordan and Poland and authorised Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez to sign the agreement on behalf of the government.

A delegation to be led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh was formed to travel to Madrid next month to discuss issues pertaining to Jordan's entry into a partnership agreement with the European Union.

A delegation to be led by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Horani was created to attend the meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organisation in Geneva on Sept. 22.

The council formed a delegation to take part in the Arab Social and Economic Council meetings, due to open in Cairo on Sept. 17, and another delegation to attend a meeting in Turkey to discuss monetary issues.

The council also approved of the formation of a national commission on senior citizens, comprising representatives of various concerned ministries and led by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser, to prepare a programme for the commission's activities.



The Council of Ministers Saturday meets to discuss measures taken by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply to increase efficiency (Petra photo)

Officials to inaugurate new post on Syrian border

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — Jordanian and Syrian officials will gather Monday at the shared border to celebrate the inauguration of the newly-built Jaber border post located on the main international highway linking the two countries, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Saturday.

Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez and his Syrian counterpart will open their respective sides of the border post, located near Mafraq, some 90-kilometres north of Amman.

The border post, built by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing on 2,500 dunums of land near the village of Jaber, cost JD9.178 million.

Work on the project began in Aug. 1991 and was completed in June 1995.

The delay in inaugurating the new border post resulted from a controversy over the planned closing of the original border crossing to Syria at Ramtha.

Border business owners there complained that the closure of the Ramtha station would bankrupt them.

It was then later decided that Ramtha would remain open to passenger vehicles and Jaber would serve large commercial vehicles.

The Jaber compound comprises several buildings that serve as offices, in addition to a residential complex, infrastructure services including roads, electricity, and telephone networks, a parking area, and a public garden.

The complex also includes facilities for travellers: a rest house, insurance offices, a post office, a shopping centre, a mosque, a customs office, a clearance office, and other features.

Mafraq Governor Ahmad Lawzi said the border post is the largest of its kind in Jordan and its open yards can accommodate 50 trucks simultaneously.

He said 30,000 forest and fruit tree saplings have been planted in the area of the complex and along the main roads of the border area.

Jordan to examine anti-mine legislation at Oslo conference

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When Jordan participates in the Oslo Diplomatic Conference on Anti-Personnel Mines from Sept. 1-19, it will continue to assess all initiatives in this domain before signing any related treaty, said a senior army official.

According to Dr. Ma'rouf Bakhit, Vice President for Military Affairs at Mu'ta University and a Major General in the Jordan Armed Forces, Jordan must first study all aspects of the situation, with priority given to humanitarian concerns.

"The treaty has to be balanced, with national security interests paying particular attention to [the positions of] neighbouring countries," Dr. Bakhit told the Jordan Times.

An officer from the Jordan Armed Forces will represent Jordan at Oslo, where more than 100 states will negotiate the actual wording of a draft treaty that banning the production, transfer, stockpiling, and use of anti-personnel land mines.

Meanwhile, some observers are pessimistic about the actual outcome of the Oslo Diplomatic Conference.

They believe that some states will act according to their own political interests and try to derail these negotiations.

The United States, according to a source who preferred anonymity, would use the Oslo platform to effect the exclusion of certain areas from the total ban of anti-personnel mines.

The source believed that with the Americans raising too many issues, no positive manifestations would be forthcoming from Oslo during the coming three weeks.

Jordan has a task force working on studying this agreement and monitoring events, Dr. Bakhit said.

If the Oslo Diplomatic Conference succeeds, then this task force must analyse all relevant aspects and submit a detailed report with recommendations to the government, he added.

The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been researching the question of banning anti-personnel land mines through the representatives at its embassies abroad, informed the Director of the Department of International Organisations, Rajab Sukayri.

He told the Jordan Times that the ministry and the Jordan Armed Forces have been studying the positions of all participants in these conferences "in order to [formulate] a Jordanian position compatible with the positions of other members in the international community."

Jordan is particularly interested in the positions of Arab states and non-aligned countries on anti-personnel mines, Mr. Sukayri said.

It costs $300 to sweep one landmine. Specialists believe that there are still approximately 280,000 landmines buried in Jordan as a consequence of previous wars.

For this reason, Jordan has taken measures to sweep landmines.

"Jordan receives technical and financial assistance from countries such as Germany and the United States to demine landmines. Jordan even relies on its own meagre resources in efforts to sweep landmines," Dr. Bakhit explained.

Even though these efforts are quite an expense to the country, Jordan is concerned for the well being of its farmers and citizens situated at border areas. Dr. Bakhit concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

* Lecture entitled "Applications of Some Contemporary Critical Tendencies of the Jordanian Plastic Arts Movement" by Dr. Mazen Asfour at 7:00 p.m.
* Paintings by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadji at the South Hall.
* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.
* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church).

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Basem Al Mahdi at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 8.
* ArtiZaman and Bani Hamida present a Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at the Al Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, until Sept. 20.
* Islamic Bookbinding Exhibition" at the British Council, Jabal Amman, until Aug. 31.

Forum reflects on past democratic experiment

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Scholars and politicians are looking back at the failure of the democratic process of the 1950s and applying those lessons to overcome the current impasse between the government and the opposition prior to the Nov. 4 elections.

The forum is a seminar entitled "The government of Suleiman Nabulsi — 40 years on," and according to the organiser, "patience" is the lesson both the government and the opposition should learn from the 1956 elections.

Those elections led to the appointment of the leftist government of the late Mr. Nabulsi, and the subsequent April 1957 "Zarqa affair," which resulted in the imposition of martial law and the abortion of what some Western scholars have described as Jordan's "first democratic experiment."

According to Hani Hourani, head of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, which is organising the seminar, from the analysis of that painful chapter of Jordan's history, "we can learn to be patient and to consider and respect different points of view, avoiding direct clashes without pushing for radical changes."

The attempted coup of April 1957, in which high-ranking military officers and leftists plotted to overthrow the monarchy, "was not necessary," Mr. Hourani said, and the radicalisation of the opposition provoked the regime into dismissing the government and dissolving Parliament.

After the attempted coup, the Kingdom had to wait until 1989 before full political life was resumed and martial law was lifted.

According to Mr. Hourani, "April '57 taught the opposition not to demand radical changes, but look for compromise and pursue a gradual democratisation process."

Today, however, the parts are reversed and, while "the opposition has learnt its 1957 lesson," the government seems stiffening its stand and does not show enough readiness to reach a compromise with the Islamic-led opposition in order to persuade it to rescind its decision to boycott the upcoming elections, Mr. Hourani commented.

"The radical attitude is the government's, and not the opposition's, like it was in 1957," he stated, commenting on the current government-opposition dialogue over electoral participation, due to enter its second stage today.

Though stressing his disagreement with the pro-boycott stand of the Muslim Brotherhood and its political wing, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), as well as four smaller left-leaning opposition parties that six weeks ago called for a general boycott of the November polls, Mr. Hourani said he "understood their reasons" and hoped that "their message will reach the leadership."

If the government-opposition dialogue does not bear the fruit of general electoral participation, the 13th Parliament "will not reflect full and complete pluralism," Mr. Hourani told the Jordan Times.

"Both the government and the opposition would lose...Jordan would lose altogether," he added.

Prominent personalities from different political shades attended the first session of the two-day seminar, yesterday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Former Deputy Faris Nabulsi, son of the late prime minister, opened the event, while Secretary General of the Communist Party Yacoub Zayyaddin and Islamist Senator Hamad Farhan discussed Mr. Hourani's paper on "Jordanian political life in the '50s and the 1956 elections."

Former Prime Minister Taher Masri chaired the seminar's morning session.

Mr. Nabulsi strongly denied that his father's government ever conspired against the regime and said: "I challenge anybody to provide any proof that the (Nabulsi) government conspired against the regime.

"Accusations that are still being levelled against that government 40 years on, especially at this stage, are only attempts to tarnish the image of that period, during which Jordan enjoyed real democracy," he said.

According to Mr. Nabulsi, "to remember that period we must not keep saying that it was a failure and that the national forces have failed and threaten them with the same destiny, but instead we should look at that experience as a model democratic experiment we should emulate."

Senator Marwan Hmoud, whose father Abdul Khalim Al Nimr Al Hmoud was a close associate of Suleiman Nabulsi's and held a ministerial post in his cabinet, presented a paper on "The National Socialist Party (NSP)." With 12 out of the then-40-member Lower House seats, the NSP won the relative majority in the 1956 elections and held six posts in the 11-strong Nabulsi cabinet.

"Allow me to keep some of the memories for myself, since there are some things that I do not want to say to avoid political rhetoric," Mr. Hmoud told the audience.

Reviewing the history of the national movement in the Arab World, Mr. Hmoud listed the main points in the NSP political programme: "Democracy at the national level, the Palestinian cause at the regional level, and divorce from colonial power."

He said "the party (the NSP) believed in hereditary monarchy and that the regime must be based on the principle of separation between the authorities.

"(The NSP believed that) the executive authority should be responsible before the legislative authority, which should be elected directly from the people, without coercion," Mr. Hmoud said in his paper.

Suhailah Rimawi analysed the role of the Ba'ath Party as part of the coalition government of Suleiman Nabulsi.

Together with one Ba'athist in the strategic position of foreign minister, Abdullah Rimawi, and six national socialists, the Nabulsi government included one communist from the National Front as well as three independents.

Speakers in today's sessions, to focus on Nabulsi's domestic and foreign policies and the consequences of the April 1957 events on Jordan's democratic life, include IAF Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Al Umma magazine editor Ibrahim Gharaibeh, and Historian Ali Mahafza.

Discussants and participants in Saturday's sessions included: former Deputy Prime Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin, women's development and human rights activist Emily Neffah, writer Nadia Alul, social-democratic leader Issa Madanat, Islamist Deputy Abdul Rahim Ekour, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Press Foundation Mahmoud Kayed.

"The NSP believed in freedom of speech and expression, therefore there were no political prisoners during the Nabulsi government," Mr. Kayed told the seminar.

"The NSP was a patriotic and pan-Arab party, which did not take into account sectarian considerations, but had a comprehensive view for the whole Arab Nation," Mr. Kayed concluded.

Taleban militia launches major attack north of Kabul — report

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taleban Islamic militia launched a major offensive early Saturday north of Kabul against the forces of opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported here.

Fierce rocket and artillery exchanges raged around the Masood-controlled town of Guldara, 22 kilometres from the Afghan capital, the Pakistan-based private information agency said.

There was no independent confirmation of the AIP report, which quoted unidentified Taleban officials.

Four Taleban fighters were killed, several injured in the fighting while the Taleban captured four Masood soldiers, officials told AIP.

Taleban claimed their troops had gained ground, the agency said, but other sources reported Guldara still remained in the control of Masood's forces.

The offensive followed a virtual stalemate north of Kabul between the two sides after recent territorial gains by Mr. Masood that brought the frontlines closer to the Taleban-held capital.

Mr. Masood is a key figure in the anti-Taleban alliance that includes northern Uzbek strongman General Abdul Malik and the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat faction headed by Karim Khalili, who controls the central Bamiyan province.

Diplomatic efforts by the United Nations and Pakistan, which has recognised the Taleban government, have so far failed to break the deadlock between the warring sides.

The Islamic militia seized Kabul in September 1996 and controls about two thirds of Afghanistan.

Its bid in May to extend control to northern provinces fizzled out when it was driven from the area by Gen. Malik who had earlier helped the Taleban enter Mazar-e-Sharif after toppling Abdul Rashid Dostum.

An estimated 2,000 Taleban soldiers remain in captivity in the north, with Gen. Malik rejecting the Islamic militia leadership's demand for their release to pave the way for talks to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Meanwhile U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi left here Saturday for Tehran for talks with the Iranian government as part of his mission to assess peace prospects in Afghanistan.

Sent to the region earlier this month, Mr. Brahimi is also due to travel to Saudi Arabia and Russia.

He has already held consultations with the Pakistan government and officials in Afghanistan's neighbouring Central Asian states of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, besides meeting Afghan leaders.

Mr. Brahimi is to make a report to the U.N. secretary general ahead of the next month's General Assembly session in New York.



Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze (right) and his Chechen counterpart Aslan Maskhadov talk during their meeting Saturday. Mr. Maskhadov is on a two-day unofficial visit in Georgia (Reuter photo)

Georgian, Chechen leaders discuss Caucasus situation, economic ties

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze began talks here Saturday with his Chechen counterpart Aslan Maskhadov, expected to touch on the thorny issue of separatism in the turbulent Caucasus region.

A Georgian presidential spokesman said the talks, at Mr. Shevardnadze's official Ktsanisi residence, were covering "economic cooperation and the situation in the Caucasus," but did not elaborate.

Later Saturday the two leaders were due to visit Akhmeta, a town about 60 kilometres north of Tbilisi which has a 10,000-strong ethnic Chechen community.

Mr. Shevardnadze said Wednesday he would have "a frank discussion" with Mr. Maskhadov, including "a necessary analysis of points that have clouded relations between the two peoples in recent years."

It was a strong hint that Mr. Shevardnadze would raise the issue of Chechen support for separatists in Georgia's breakaway Abkhazia region, who ousted Georgian troops in a 1992-1993 war.

Shamyl Basayev, a field commander who played a key role in the fierce 21-month Chechen resistance to Russian troops which ended with a peace deal signed last August, earlier led a contingent of Chechen guerrillas who fought alongside the Abkhaz separatists.

The war in Abkhazia, a subtropical mountainous region on the Black Sea, left thousands dead and sent up to 250,000 refugees fleeing to Georgia.

On August 14, Mr. Shevardnadze and Abkhaz separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba held marathon talks in Tbilisi and agreed to rule out the use of force in their long-running conflict.

The agreement made no mention of Abkhazia's political status or the return of the refugees.

However, Mr. Shevardnadze announced Wednesday that Georgia and Abkhazia would soon sign a protocol which could pave the way for a formal peace treaty.

Mr. Maskhadov arrived in Tbilisi Saturday with Chechen Deputy Prime Minister Akhmed Zakayev and other Chechen officials.

Their talks with Georgian leaders were also likely to cover the transit of Caspian oil across the Caucasus.

Earlier this week Chechen Vice-President Vakha Arsanov suggested that a new oil pipeline could be built from the Chechen capital Grozny to Georgia — an option that would scupper plans to send Caspian oil by pipeline from Azerbaijan's rich offshore fields to Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiisk via Chechnya.

Russian Security Council Secretary Ivan Rybkin dismissed Mr. Arsanov's suggestion as unrealistic.

Russian officials have said they expect to sign an agreement with their Chechen counterparts Monday covering the oil transit arrangements for the Baku-Novorossiisk pipeline.

Russian Deputy Fuel and Energy Minister Sergei Kiriyenko said "nearly all the disagreements have been resolved" concerning the pipeline, which is due to start transporting Azerbaijani oil for export in October.

An international consortium developing three of Azerbaijan's rich offshore fields has opted for two routes for the "early" oil due to start flowing before larger quantities are exported in the next century.

One is the Baku-Novorossiisk route, and the other route crosses Georgia to reach a new terminal being built at Supsa on the Black Sea.

Mexico to boost protection of U.S.-bound immigrants

SAN ANTONIO (R) — The Mexican government will beef up its diplomatic staff along the U.S.-Mexico border to help protect illegal immigrants in the face of a new crackdown by U.S. authorities.

Mexican officials said Friday that as many as 70 people will be added to consular staffs in the U.S. in the coming weeks to defend Mexican immigrants from human rights abuses.

At the same time, the Mexican government will expand its campaign within Mexico to inform its citizens about the dangers of illegal immigration, they said.

The actions were announced at the end of two days of meetings in San Antonio by Mexican Foreign Ministry officials and Texas-based Mexican diplomats. They gathered to discuss the launch Monday of Operation Rio Grande, a U.S. crackdown against illegal immigration in south Texas.

Juan Rebolledo, Mexican undersecretary for foreign affairs, in a statement after Friday's meeting said Operation Rio Grande would foment anti-immigrant sentiment and put Mexicans making illegal border crossings in danger. He said immigrants were not criminals, but people in need of jobs.

"This type of policy exacerbates the anti-immigrant climate and with that, damages the harmony that should exist in border communities," he said.

"Nations like Mexico and the U.S. that share a border must take into account the consequences and effects of the application of their laws," Mr. Rebolledo said.

He said Mexico will push for greater dialogue with the U.S. about its border policies.

Operation Rio Grande is a continuation of earlier crackdowns in San Diego, California, and El Paso, Texas where strengthened patrols supposedly have reduced illegal immigration.

U.S. officials, despite Mexican objections, plan to nearly double the size of the border patrol over the next four years and toughen enforcement along the entire border.

Facing new threats, Amazon Indians meet in Brazil

BOA VISTA, Brazil (R) — Threatened by major building projects that could draw swarms of miners and loggers to their lands, Indian tribes from three South American nations are meeting in Brazil this week to map their defences.

In the first ever "summit" of Indian chiefs from Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana, indigenous leaders protested against plans to asphalt roads and string an electrical transmission line across the Amazon rain forest.

"These projects are threats, just as much to the indigenous peoples of Brazil as they are to the indigenous peoples of Venezuela and Guyana," said Jeronimo Pereira Da Silva of the Indigenous Council of Roraima.

The International Seminar of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana began Wednesday and was due to run through Saturday in the sweltering heat of Boa Vista, the capital of Brazil's northernmost state of Roraima.

A rugged frontier town where souped-up roadsters with tinted windshields rumble past massive Chevrolet pickups and rusty Brazilian-made Volkswagens, Boa Vista is nestled between Brazil's rain forest borders with Venezuela and Guyana.

David Rothschild of the Washington-based Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and Their Environment said the seminar was concerned mainly with three big infrastructure projects.

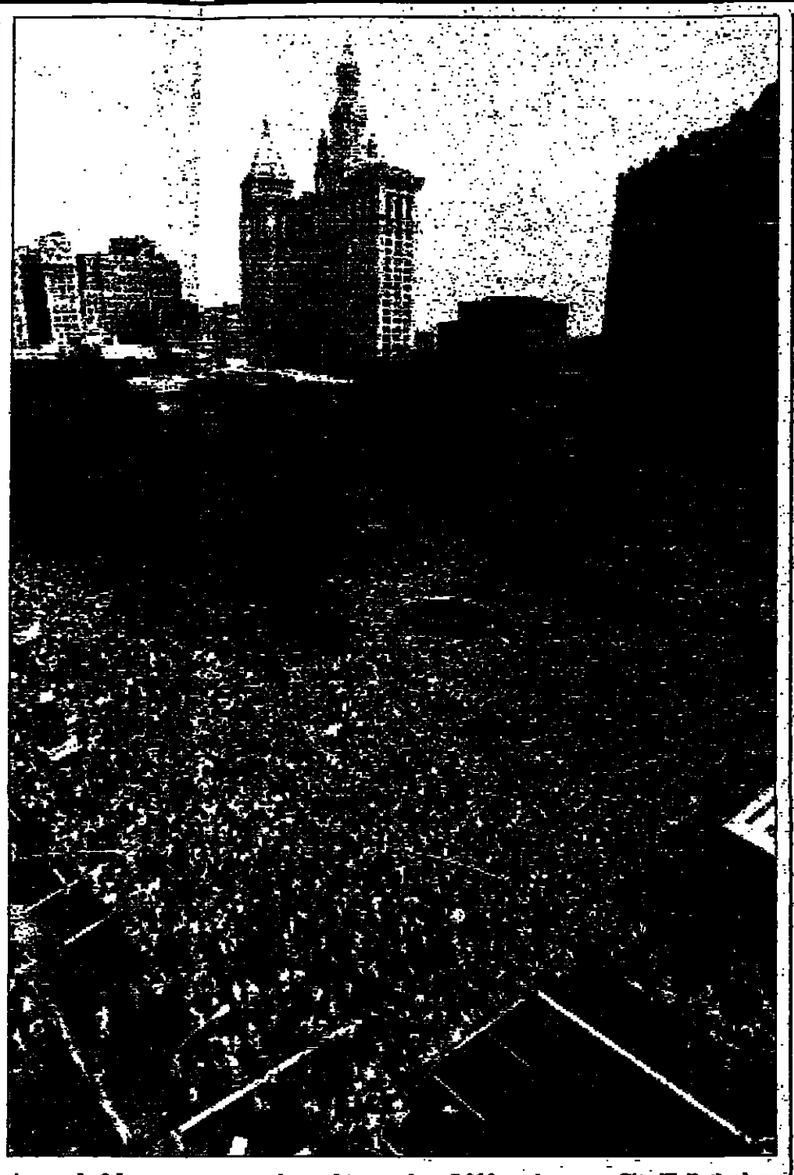
The projects are springing up as a result of regional trade liberalisation and economic growth across the continent, which are triggering unprecedented development in hitherto pristine areas such as the Amazon basin.

The Brazilian and Venezuelan government's plan to pave BR-174, a highway linking the Amazonian city of Manaus in Brazil to Venezuela's capital Caracas, passing through the Waimiri-Atroari Indian reserve and affecting several others.

Brazil and Guyana want to link Manaus to Georgetown, on Guyana's Atlantic coast. That route, known as the Linden-Lethem Road passes through three Indian territories.

In addition, Venezuela and Brazil plan to erect a power transmission line from Venezuela's Guri Dam to Boa Vista, providing Roraima with much-needed electricity.

Apart from passing through Venezuela's Canaima National Park, home to the spectacular Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, the transmission cable may encourage large-scale mining and logging in Indian areas and in Roraima.



A crowd of demonstrators, estimated to number 5,000, gather near City Hall, the low building seen above the trees, in New York to protest the alleged beating and sexual torture of a Haitian immigrant by white police officers. The demonstration was held to support security guard Abner Louima who suffered severe internal injuries when police allegedly forced a wooden stick in his rectum (Reuter photo).

Thousands protest alleged police attack in New York

NEW YORK (R) — Thousands of chanting demonstrators marched through New York Friday to protest against the alleged beating and sexual torture of a Haitian immigrant by white police officers.

A crowd estimated by police at 2,500 in the morning grew to more than 5,000 as protesters made their way from Brooklyn across the Brooklyn bridge to city hall in Manhattan for a rally to draw attention to citizens' allegations of brutality by New York City police officers.

The demonstration was sponsored by Haitian-American organisations to support night security guard, Abner Louima, who told investigators he was struck and then sexually abused by officers on August 9.

Mr. Louima, 30, who suffered severe internal injuries when officers allegedly forced a wooden stick into his rectum in a Brooklyn precinct house bathroom, has taken a turn for the worse in recent days.

Doctors operated for an hour Thursday night to remove adhesions that were blocking his intestine. Mr. Louima's condition was changed from stable to critical.

At the rally, community leaders spoke in Creole and English and led protesters in singing "we shall overcome", the anthem of the U.S. black civil rights movement.

Although Republican mayor, Rudolph Giuliani cleaned out the command of the 70th precinct in Brooklyn where Mr. Louima was allegedly assaulted, some of his critics are not satisfied.

Mr. Giuliani, running for a second term in November, established a task force to work on improving relations between police and communities, a move which fell short of calls by rights groups for an independent panel to monitor the 38,000-strong force.

"He hasn't tackled the systemic nature of police brutality," said speaker Richie Perez of the Congress of Puerto Rican Rights. "He needs to take action in other precincts too."

Marchers felt the Brooklyn bridge swaying and vibrating as they walked across, chanting, waving banners and blue and white Haitian flags. There was a minor scuffle in Brooklyn, but otherwise the march was peaceful and orderly.

The allegations of police brutality reverberated across the city, particularly in Black, Hispanic and Asian communities where residents have complained for years that new aggressive crime-fighting tactics have led to more abuses.

"In the USA, they say there are human rights and this is not supposed to happen," said demonstrator George Noel, who came with his wife Antonine de Lices and two sons ages 2 and 9. "So far as we see it, it is the same thing as on the island," said Mr. Noel, referring to his troubled Caribbean homeland of Haiti, which has been ruled by dictators and repressive military governments in its recent history.

Four white police officers have been indicted for the assault on Mr. Louima, who is black, including charges that it was racially motivated. The U.S. Justice Department's civil rights division is investigating whether the accused men should face charges that they violated Mr. Louima's civil rights.

The incident started outside a nightclub when police were called in after a scuffle broke out. The four have all been charged with assaulting Mr. Louima on the way to the station. Two of the officers are also charged with aggravated sexual abuse.

Mr. Louima accused them of sticking the wooden handle of a toilet plunger into his rectum and then his mouth, but it might have been a mop or broom, according to officials.

Some marchers were carrying a coffin with a toilet plunger stuck on the top, the photographs and names of the four accused were also pasted onto the casket.

Chanting "no justice, no peace" and carrying signs such as "let's fight back the NYPD", "Justice for Abner" and "No more Giuliani time" the marchers converged on City Hall.

The sign about "Giuliani time" was a reference to what one of the accused officer's reportedly told Mr. Louima: "This is Giuliani time, not Dinkins time." Mr. Giuliani's predecessor David Dinkins was the city's first black mayor.

Mr. Giuliani and his police commissioners have won praise nationwide for bringing crime in the city down to its lowest level in a generation. But critics say the strategy of making arrests and prosecuting so-called "quality of life" crimes encourages police to abuse their powers.

U.K. seeks expanded ties with Manila

MANILA (AFP) — British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook Saturday called for expanded military ties with the Philippines and promised a crackdown on trans-continental sex tours preying on Filipino women and children.

Mr. Cook said Britain was interested in playing a role in the modernisation of the Philippine military, which is among the weakest in Asia, and sources in his entourage told AFP he pushed for specific contracts during a meeting with President Fidel Ramos.

"We are very willing to take part in joint exercises. I hope it will be possible to get over the legal problems," Mr. Cook said in a news conference after meeting his Philippine counterpart, Domingo Siazon.

Mr. Siazon said he and Mr. Cook discussed a status of forces agreement, which would cover the legal liability of any British troops who committed crimes in the Philippines, and said formal talks were forthcoming.

Failure to reach such an agreement with the United States has led to the cancellation of joint military exercises between Filipino and U.S. troops.

Mr. Cook, who arrived in Manila late Friday for a 36-hour visit, also witnessed the signing of a landmark agreement aimed at boosting the fight against global sex tour operators and child molesters.

Mr. Cook, who came from Malaysia and Indonesia, will leave Sunday for Singapore, the last leg of his four-nation Asian tour.

The agreement was signed by British Ambassador Adrian Thorpe and Philippine National Police chief Recaredo Sarmiento at a drop-in centre for abused children in Manila, where an estimated 60,000 street children roam.

"Sex abuse of children is an unforgivable crime. The British government deplores child abuse of any kind, and I'm determined to protect the rights of the child wherever they are violated," Mr. Cook told reporters.

He warned paedophiles and sex tour agents to "stop the trade of abusing children."

Mr. Cook said his visit to the centre brought home to him "in vivid terms the damage done to these young lives who have been robbed of their innocence and childhood."

The agreement calls on British police experts to train local police in investigation techniques and in dealing with child abuse cases. It also "covers exchange of intelligence on known and suspected child abusers."

Under the agreement, Britain and the Philippines will cooperate in tasking experts to "devise more effective ways of protecting children."

Their findings will be presented during the Asia-Europe meeting of business and political leaders in London next year in a bid to "take the fight against child sex into the international arena," a British embassy statement said.

Japan hails nomination of Foley as U.S. ambassador

TOKYO (R) — Japan said Saturday that it welcomed the nomination of former U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley as the new ambassador to Japan.

"We would like to welcome the nomination of the 'big-shot ambassador' who has a brilliant career record of House speaker and has close relations with President Bill Clinton," Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto said.

"The nomination proves that the Clinton administration continues to attach importance to its relations with Japan," he said in a statement.

On Friday, President Bill Clinton nominated Mr. Foley, 68, a Washington state Democrat, as U.S. ambassador to Japan. The nomination requires Senate confirmation.

"We hope that when he assumes his post, he will take an active part in further developing friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and the U.S.," Mr. Hashimoto said.

Mr. Foley was speaker of the House of Representatives in 1994 when the Democrats lost control of Congress to the Republicans and he was defeated for reelection. Since then he has been a partner in a Washington law firm.

The previous ambassador to Japan, former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, retired in December after a three-year tenure during which he played a key role in settling trade feuds and repairing frayed security ties.

Mr. Foley was a moderately liberal member of Congress, not particularly active in trade issues. He is expected to bring to the job a close knowledge of the inner workings of Washington rather than a deep knowledge of Japan.

Among his other roles, he was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee from 1975 to 1981.

هكذا من الأصل



Thai soldiers ride on a truck to reinforce colleagues near Thailand's Chong Chom Pass Saturday. Thai forces fired 14 artillery rounds back at Hun Sen's troops on Aug. 27 after a shell strayed across the Thai border killing a Thai soldier and wounding two others (Reuter photo)

Khmer Rouge supports King Sihanouk's efforts for peace

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas Saturday hailed King Norodom Sihanouk as the cement of national unity and said they supported his efforts to promote peace and national reconciliation in his troubled country.

King Sihanouk returned to Cambodia Friday for the first time since his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, was ousted in a coup by his former coalition partner and co-premier, Hun Sen.

"He has asked that the crisis be solved through peace talks," *the guerrillas said in a clandestine radio broadcast* monitored in Phnom Penh. "All Cambodian people, both inside and outside the country, support the king's idea."

"King Sihanouk is a patriot king. He is always the symbol of the nation, the cement of national unity and national reconciliation," the radio said.

King Sihanouk, 74, who has been undergoing medical treatment in Beijing since February, arrived in the northwest town of Siem Reap where he will take part in Buddhist prayers for peace and national reconciliation at the nearby Angkor temple complex.

Among government leaders to greet him upon his arrival Friday was Mr. Hun Sen.

The king has had a long and complex history with the leftist rebels, whom he first dubbed "Les Khmer Rouges."

His persecution of the left in the late 1950s and early 1960s first forced people such as the notorious Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot into underground opposition to King Sihanouk's rule.

Then the king formed an alliance with the rebels after he was overthrown in a 1970 coup, but was later kept a virtual prisoner by Pol Pot during his 1975-79 "killing fields" *rule in which more than one million people died, including* 14 members of King Sihanouk's family.

King Sihanouk again formed an alliance with the Khmer Rouge to oppose Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia through the 1980s.

Prince Ranariddh was overthrown by Hun Sen on July 6 as their four-year-old coalition government — always shaky — collapsed in violence.

The rebel radio has consistently attacked Mr. Hun Sen, labelling him a puppet of Vietnam and calling for united opposition to his rule.

Saturday's broadcast again referred to Mr. Hun Sen as a "puppet" and said King Sihanouk could not accept Hun Sen's July 6 takeover.

At the time of his ouster, Prince Ranariddh was conducting peace talks with senior Khmer Rouge members who broke with Pol Pot in June.

In recent weeks, Khmer Rouge guerrillas have been helping royalist troops fight government forces under Mr. Hun Sen in the far northwest of the country, but Prince Ranariddh denies any formal military pact with the rebels.

Military officials in Siem Reap said the *situation around* the contested northwest border town of O'smach, 100 kilometres northwest of Siem Reap, was quiet Saturday.

King Sihanouk Friday issued a fresh call for a ceasefire, but clashes erupted around O'smach later in the day.

Meanwhile Mr. Hun Sen Saturday said a report of a rift in his political party was a "terrorist act" and that those responsible would be arrested.

"This (involves) national security and we are going to follow up to arrest those who made this issue up," he told reporters in this northern town before returning to the capital.

The powerful second prime minister was referring to a statement faxed to news agencies Thursday that purported to be an announcement from Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP). The statement said the CPP's leadership had been changed in protest over the ouster last month *of First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.*

"We consider this a terrorist act of intimidation (which has) poisoned the atmosphere," Mr. Hun Sen said, adding the document, printed on what appeared to be a CPP letterhead, was a forgery.

"Now our intelligence is investigating this issue, we are searching for the fax number (of who sent it)."

It was not clear who distributed the statement, which said that CPP President Chea Sim and party Vice-President Hun Sen had been replaced at an extraordinary congress in northern Cambodia attended by more than 1,000 delegates.

The fax did not carry the sender's number but those with questions about the reported congress were asked to send a fax to a number in Bangkok, where many of Ranariddh's supporters are now staying.

In addition, the font used in the statement was similar to that font used in statements from prominent dissident Sam Rainsy, a political ally of the prince.

The number in Bangkok was answered by a recording of a man, apparently disguising his voice, announcing in English that callers had reached the Cambodian People's Party and to leave a message or send a fax.

According to the message, Mr. Chea Sim, 64 and president of the National Assembly, was replaced by a 30-year-old female labour union leader, and the party condemned Hun Sen's "bloody coup d'etat."

The congress also supposedly abandoned the CPP's *allegedly lingering adherence to communism.*

Russia, Armenia sign strategic pact

MOSCOW (AFP) — The presidents of Russia and Armenia signed a far-reaching strategic pact in the Kremlin Friday which Yerevan said could prove more significant than Russia's union accord with Belarus.

The Friendship and Cooperation Treaty, signed by President Boris Yeltsin and his Armenian counterpart Levon Ter-Petrosyan on the second day of the latter's visit, provided for mutual assistance in the event of a military threat to either party.

It was aimed at boosting cooperation in a range of fields — politics, the economy, defence, science and culture — between the two mainly Orthodox Christian ex-Soviet republics, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan told reporters that the treaty "is more significant than the Russian-Belarussian integration accord, provided it is implemented."

He said it could lead to "union relations with Russia." Russia and its western neighbour Belarus signed a union charter in May — the first such accord since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 — but a recent row over arrests of Russian journalists in Belarus has soured their relations.

The treaty between Moscow and Yerevan stipulates that Russia will keep borderguards on Armenia's borders with Turkey and Iran, Interfax reported.

Russia, a traditional ally of the Armenians, is allowed to keep 12,000 troops in Armenia, and already helps to guard the mountainous, landlocked country's borders with Turkey and its other neighbour — Azerbaijan.

The treaty, due to run for 25 years, still has to be ratified by the Russian and Armenian parliaments.

The new treaty's military clauses could further complicate the fragile peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, who fought a bitter war from 1988 to 1994 over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, which left an estimated 20,000 dead.

Armenia wrested control of the enclave from Azerbaijan in the war, which displaced a million people. A shaky ceasefire has been in effect since May 1994.

Under the new treaty, Russia and Armenia pledged to step up cooperation in military industries, share the use of military facilities in case of a threat to either side's security and refrain from any alliances which could threaten the other side.

In March, former Russian defence minister, Igor Rodionov, said military prosecutors were probing the illegal handover of 84 Russian T-72 army tanks and 50 infantry fighting vehicles to Armenia — an announcement which triggered a strong protest from Azerbaijan.

The equipment, along with spare parts worth around seven billion rubles ($1.2 million), was transferred for free to Armenia in 1994-1996, without the Russian government knowing, Mr. Rodionov revealed.

The Russian-Armenian treaty also envisaged closer cooperation in the areas of transport, telecommunications, information technology and energy.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan announced that a joint gas company would be set up, called ArmRosGaz, which would enable Russia to "reach new markets, notably the Middle East and Turkey."

Before leaving Saturday, Mr. Ter-Petrosyan was due to hold talks with Rem Vyakhirev, head of the Russian gas giant Gazprom, as well as with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

Turkey signed a preliminary agreement Friday to buy Russian natural gas via a $3 billion pipeline to be constructed beneath the Black Sea, the Anatolia news agency said.

Russian-Armenian trade turnover reached more than $220 million in 1996.

Russia's exports to Armenia included oil, ferrous metals and timber, and in exchange it imported rolled aluminium, copper, molybdenum, footwear and wine, ITAR-TASS said.

Clashes chip away at fragile Tajikistan peace deal

DUSHANBE (R) — Government security forces and Islamist opposition fighters clashed near Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe Friday, Tajik officials said, further imperilling a shaky peace accord in the former Soviet republic.

"Two opposition fighters were killed in a shoot-out with police in Kofarnikhon (south of Dushanbe)," an Interior Ministry source in Dushanbe told Reuters.

In a separate incident, government troops and guerrillas fought for an hour east of Dushanbe Friday, leaving one government soldier wounded, a Tajik Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Five opposition fighters were killed in Kofarnikhon earlier this week after an armed standoff with local authorities. The Interior *Ministry source said the* two fighters were killed Friday trying to resist police arrest.

The local administration has said it will not allow the return of armed opposition fighters to Kofarnikhon. For their part the guerrillas based near the town have said they do not trust government safety guarantees and have refused to lay down their weapons.

Meanwhile, Islamist guerrillas under hardline field commander Rakhmon Sanginov clashed with a battalion of Tajik Defence Ministry troops 9 kilometres east of Dushanbe, the Defence *Ministry spokesman said.*

"This is an armed provocation," he said. "If this action is repeated government forces will take adequate measures."

Daulot Usman, the commander in chief of opposition forces, told Reuters he had not heard of the clashes.

Tajikistan, a mountainous republic of 5.7 million which borders Afghanistan and China, has been rocked by violence since the start of this month when rival *pro-government warlords* fought in and around Dushanbe.

More serious for the republic are the clashes and mounting tensions between the government and the Islamists, who supposedly signed an end to four years of civil war last June.

Earlier this week, the opposition halted the return of 460 guerrillas to Dushanbe.

Their absence has stopped the new government, a 26-*member commission* headed by opposition leader said Abdullo Nuri and meant to work in tandem with President Imomali Rakhmonov from implementing the accord and paving the way for parliamentary elections next year.

'El Nino' may worsen South East Asian haze

SINGAPORE (R) — The smoky haze affecting parts of South East Asia may worsen as a result of the El Nino global weather pattern, the daily Straits Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper quoted Tan Gee Paw, permanent secretary at Singapore's Environment Ministry, as saying El Nino could extend this year's dry season in the region.

"Nineteen ninety-seven is expected to be a very dry year in Indonesia, due to the current El Nino phenomenon, which is expected to be the worst this century," Mr. Tan said.

"The dry season may last until December, and the smoke haze situation could deteriorate as it did in 1994 when our air quality reached the 'unhealthy' range for 17 days."

El Nino — Spanish for "the child" and named after the Christ child by Peruvian fishermen because it usually peaks around Christmas — is a warming of water in the south eastern Pacific Ocean that disrupts weather patterns around the globe.

It is known to cause drought in some areas and floods in others.

The Straits Times said Singapore's Environment Ministry was working closely with Indonesia to tackle the haze, which is caused by the smoke of thousands of forest and bush fires across the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Kalimantan.

Singapore, Malaysia and large areas of Indonesia have been blanketed by the haze this season and have issued public warnings about exercising outdoors.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Tan as saying the impact on Singapore so far had been less dramatic than on Malaysia because the winds had not been blowing the smoke directly towards the city-state on most days. But he said El Nino might make the haze worse.

Singapore's Air Quality Index, which has a scale of zero to 500, stood at 71 Friday, putting air quality in the "moderate" range. Special precautions are taken if the index rises above 100, the newspaper said.

At 40, Malaysia faces mid-life crisis

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia, home to one of the world's economic miracles, turns 40 this weekend and faces the same problems that *many grown-ups would — a* mid-life crisis.

Processions by thousands of people, fireworks and an air show by military jets have been planned for the party to celebrate 40 years of the independence of Malaysia Sunday.

But beneath the celebrations are serious worries about the future of this miracle.

Having turned an agricultural- and minerals-based economy into a manufacturing powerhouse — and managing the last nine years with an economic growth of more than eight per cent a year — the country faces problems it could have not once imagined.

The nation's currency, the ringgit, is in a nose-dive. Stocks are not faring much better, while most investment analysts are of the opinion that the economy is overheating.

Social ills — including corruption, teenage crime, *drug addiction, alcoholism* and AIDS — are growing among its 21 million people. So are environmental hazards such as air pollution, forest clearance and choked city roads due to industrial expansion, say green groups.

Political analysts expect Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia's leader for the last 16 years, to strike a sombre note in his national day message Sunday.

"I think we should be more *prudent from here on with* managing the economy and everything else," said Rustam Sani, a newspaper columnist who has tracked Malaysia's growth since its independence from the British on August 31, 1957.

"We may have done well so far and the pie is quite big for everyone to share...the test will come when it shrinks," Mr. Rustam Said.

In fact in a speech Saturday, *Mr. Mahathir said tur*moil on the stock and currency markets had cut the country's per capita income to $4,200 from $4,600 in 1996.

During the last four decades, Malaysia has gone through four phases of industrialisation to grow out of its dependence on rubber and tin and earn the "Malaysian miracle" tag from the World Bank.

Import substitution in the 1950s was superseded by export-oriented industrialisation in the 1960s. In the early 1980s, the government developed heavy industries.

In the mid-1980s, the country began to reverse its development strategy from a public to private sector emphasis.

Privatisation has been an integral part of the economy ever since, particularly to promote heavy industrialisation and ensure appropriate wealth distribution to deprived indigenous Malays.

Foreign investment poured in, encouraged by political and social stability. The multi-racial country has had race riots only once, in 1969, when the Malays clashed with the then richer ethnic Chinese.

The prudent policies of Mr. Mahathir worked so well that even the global recession of mid-1980s did little damage to Malaysia.

But in the 1990s, it appeared as though both the prime minister and his country could not be satisfied with slow and steady growth.

Mr. Mahathir fast-tracked industrialisation and set a 30-year target for the country to be fully developed by 2020. He initiated one costly infrastructure project after another and began aspiring for records such as the world's tallest building and longest city, and Southeast Asia's biggest dam.

The mid-life crisis came forcibly this month, in the aftermath of a regional currency crisis that brought about a devaluation of the Thai baht and the Philippine peso.

The ringgit plunged to 2.9650 to the dollar this week, its lowest level since being officially floated in 1973. Share Prices on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) fell to four-year lows.

Many analysts predict that *the economy will slow down* considerably in the second half of this year, with some saying that growth could dip below eight per cent for the first time since 1987.

Most said 1998 will be even slower.

A Reuters poll of 12 research houses earlier this month showed an estimated gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.9 per cent in 1997 against the government's projection of 8.2 Per cent. They expect average GDP growth of 7.4 per cent in 1998.

"Most people are knocking down their numbers after recent developments," said Kevin Chew, an economist at Caspian Securities. "The ringgit is weakening and the period of high-interest rates is no longer what we have anticipated. This will curb domestic demand," he said.

Trade figures were no less worrying. For a country that relies on exports for 90 per cent of its GDP, there was a deficit of 2.7 billion ringgit ($965 million) in the first half of this year compared to 688 million ringgit ($246 million) in the same period last year.

Exports itself only rose by 1.9 per cent.

Analysts say many of Malaysia's problems are due to its eagerness to grow too fast, but the 71-year-old Mr. Mahathir vehemently opposes this.

He angrily accuses Westerners, such as U.S. fund manager, George Soros, of systematically trying to destroy his country and other successful Asian economies for political reasons.

Mr. Mahathir has accused Mr. Soros of engineering the sharp fall in the ringgit and other southeast Asian currencies. Mr. Soros has denied the charge.

"We Asian governments have worked 40 years to build our countries and he comes along and destroys everything in a month," said Mr. Mahathir recently, referring to Mr. Soros, whom he has even called a "moron."

He said Saturday that although Malaysia cannot close its trade borders, it will develop skills to counter excessive speculation.

"We will learn to live in this jungle and we will develop the skills to handle the wild beasts which roam inside it," he said.

Foreign economists have been surprised by the prime minister's savage comments against free market practices. They were even more shocked by the draconian action he took this week to ban speculation in 100 blue-chip shares on the stock exchange.

But to the man-in-the-street, Malaysia could have not done any better without Mr. Mahathir.

"I'm seriously wondering what would have happened if we didn't have this man as our prime minister," a taxi driver said, while admiring the work being done for Sunday's celebrations.

With full employment and growing incomes, one supposes many Malaysians can still afford to smile for now.

Plastic bullets fired as crowd attacks Belfast police station

LONDON (Agencies) — Police used plastic bullets in a bid to disperse a crowd of up to 100 people who attacked a Belfast police station, police said.

The crowd threw petrol bombs, tried to force open the doors and set fire to the New Barnsley police station *in the mainly Catholic West* Belfast during a two and a half hour attack described by police as "quite sustained."

In a bid to disperse the crowd police opened fire using a small number of plastic bullets. There were no reported injuries during the incident the cause of which has not yet been established, police said.

The New Barnsley police station was also the scene of an attack by an armed gang *in July* before the declaration of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire on July 20.

As a sign of the validity of the truce the British government Friday invited Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, to participate in talks on the future of Northern Ireland beginning on Sept. 15.

A man is due to appear in court in Belfast Saturday following his arrest Thursday in a neighbouring district of West Belfast for possession of an AK-47 assault rifle.

Meanwhile the United States Friday said it supported Britain's decision to invite Sinn Fein, the political wing of the banned IRA, to join multi-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

"We welcome the decision, which gives an opportunity for all parties in *Northern Ireland to be part* of inclusive talks leading to a negotiated settlement," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters.

He was speaking on the island of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts where President Bill Clinton is on vacation.

The British decision was taken in light of the IRA's ceasefire, declared on July 20, in its campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

*In Washington, State De*partment spokesman James Rubin said: "The British and Irish governments have long held that Sinn Fein may join in the all-party talks in Belfast only when the IRA has ceased all violent operations."

"The U. S. has strongly supported this position and welcomes both the ceasefire itself and the inclusion of Sinn Fein in the talks, which we consider to be the best means of achieving a *lasting overall settlement in* Northern Ireland."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams will be in Washington next week to meet U.S. officials, including Mr. Clinton's National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, and members of Congress, some of whom support the Irish nationalist cause.

Mr. Adams will also be visiting New York and has scheduled four days of meetings and news conferences in the two cities.

In an interview with the New York Times earlier this month he said: "(The) U.S. trip is about enlisting support for a democratic peace settlement, for the notion of Irish unity, for an end to the British occupation" of Northern Ireland.

Mr. Rubin said the U.S. government would closely follow the negotiations, partly through former U.S. *Senator George Mitchell,* who is chairing the talks and who has close links with both Mr. Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

He said the ultimate success would depend on "whether the parties themselves have come to a conclusion that peace through the negotiating table is better than conflict through the streets."

He added: "That's their decision, and all we can do in this kind of a case is try to make ourselves available to assist in the process."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة تصدر يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: **684311, 699634**
Telex: **21497 ALRAI JO**
Facsimile: **696183**

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Albright's rescue mission

NOW THAT is it certain that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will visit several Middle Eastern capitals starting Sept. 9, the eyes of all concerned parties are focusing on what she could possibly bring with her by way of effective policy measures to breathe new life into the stalled peace process. On the surface of things, the secretary of state felt that "some progress has been made" between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on security issues and that "there is a trend in the right direction," to justify the decision to intervene in the derailed peace talks. This assessment must have been borne out by a string of security cooperation measures agreed between the two sides, which could restore some confidence and trust between them. But the more compelling reason for the secretary of state to come here is the rapid deterioration in the peace process which propelled Israeli Labour leader Ehud Barak to comment that the thwarted negotiations require intensive care to save them from an irreversible downturn.

The U.S. State Department spokesman, James Rubin, has tried to play down expectations that Albright's first visit to the region could achieve "instant results" by reminding us that "she is not a magician." Magician or not, all sides expect from the visiting secretary of state a great deal, although results might not be achieved quickly.

The immediate parties are fast reaching the stage when they will have to reckon with the fundamentals of their conflict including the final status talks. Perhaps both the Palestinians and the Israelis have committed the cardinal sin of delaying negotiations on the basic features of the ultimate solution to their disputes including Jerusalem, the size of the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the nature of the Palestinian entity that is projected to emerge at the end of negotiations. Yet there is no turning back from the Oslo accords which envisaged a staged implementation of what was agreed upon in order to instill trust and faith between the parties and generate a momentum that could make easier the resolution of very thorny issues.

Both the PNA leader, Yasser Arafat, and the Israeli prime minister, Benyamin Netanyahu, are under tremendous pressures from extremists from within their own ranks. Militant Palestinians would like nothing more than to see an early demise of the Oslo accords. Some of Netanyhau's own coalition partners would also like nothing more than to bury the Oslo accords. Only two days ago former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir described Netanyahu as a "liar, an opportunist and an egoist," for no reason other than the apparent willingness of the Israeli prime minister to adhere to the Oslo pacts. In the eyes of Shamir, "there are no moderate Arabs with the exception of (the late Egyptian President) Anwar Sadat.

With this in mind, the first order of business for the Israeli government is to rid itself of extremists and free itself from Shamir's mentality. And the first priority for the PNA is to consolidate the Palestinian support for the peace process by maintaining national unity and ending all actions by Palestinian hard-liners that risk derailing what has already painstakingly been achieved. Without the two sides succeeding in these efforts, Albright's own attempts to salvage the peace effort would come to naught.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for **Al Ra'i** Saturday praised France for taking the initiative of urging the European Union to actively participate in ensuring the establishment of a permanent peace in the Middle East. Mahmoud Rimawi said that France has indeed been critical of passive stand vis-à-vis the situation in the Middle East and Israel's continued inhuman measures against the Palestinians: and nowadays, Paris is planning to join the U.S. in a fresh initiative to give momentum to the peace process, said the writer. Of course Washington does not wish to see any European move in the region because it imposes its hegemony on its countries and claims full sponsorship of the peace process which has not made any progress, especially on the Israeli-Palestinian track, said the writer. The U.S. is busying itself with such issues like the Middle East economic summit and is engaged in efforts to prevent Syria and other Middle Eastern countries from receiving sophisticated weapons for their own defence in the face of Israel's aggression, continued the writer. While welcoming the U.S. secretary of state's coming visit to the region, the writer said that the Arab masses continue to look with real hope to any initiative from the European Union which, he said, maintains very strong historic ties with the Arab World.

A WRITER for **Al Dustour** urged the private sector pharmaceutical firms to follow the lead of the Jordanian government in extending help to the Palestinians by sending drugs needed for the sick. Hamadeh Faraaneh said that the Jordanian government has sent eight tonnes of badly needed drugs to the Palestinian Ministry of Health to help it cope with the growing need for medical treatment of the people, and the private sector companies are called on to follow suit and move to send the required assistance. It is a well-known fact that the health ministry's drugstores are facing difficulties due to the heavy debts owed to the drug manufacturers, but despite these difficulties, the ministry managed to despatch a shipment of medicines and medical equipment for the Arab people facing Israel's blockade, noted the writer. By sending the medical assistance, he added, the government has expressed the feeling of solidarity with the Palestinian leadership and people who continue to face repression, and the time has come for the private companies to follow the government's example and extend assistance that would enhance the resistance of the Palestinians in the face of occupation and repression.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Is it wise to pursue commercial borrowing?

IT SEEMS that the government has taken the decision to risk putting the Jordanian economy under test in the international capital markets by entering the market to raise $100 million on pure commercial basis. The transaction will bring about the first Jordanian sovereign loan since 1987.

The purpose of this medium-term loan is ostensibly to reestablish Jordan as a creditworthy borrower and an acceptable risk to international banks. The funds may be used to buy back Jordan's Brady bonds, currently offered in the secondary market at a discount.

Obviously, the government does not need the borrowed funds because for several years, the budget posted cash surpluses, after grants, which were used to reduce the stock of the internal public debt. There is no guarantee that the whole amount will be used to repay debt; part of it may go to the social package or be used to finance extra expenditures, one way or other.

The loan, may be a first step to restore the policy of external borrowing. Even if this government uses the proceeds of the first loan properly, there is no guarantee that the next government will not use the second and third loans for expansion.

Jordan is about to graduate from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regime by the end of the coming year. It does not need to find itself, once more, knocking at the door of the IMF, asking for help rescheduling. It has become clear by now that such help comes with conditions that infringe upon one's sovereignty.

Government and Central Bank sources show over-confidence. They claim that the price will be only three quarters to one per cent over London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). Banks talk about 1.35 to 1.5 per cent over LIBOR because the government credit is not much better than the credit of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), which agreed to pay 1.5 per cent over LIBOR. The company depends on exports of an essential material with guaranteed international markets, makes all its earnings in dollars and, accordingly, can honour its foreign debt repayments even in the worse circumstances.

The intended Jordanian sovereign loan is expected to run into some obstacles which can easily be predicted: the Jordanian government's debt commitments are trading in the secondary market at a discount; some Arab financial institutions, such as the Kuwaiti institutions, will shun the loan on political grounds; British investors are still required to make a provision of 11 per cent against any Jordanian asset; since a major part of contributions will come from Jordanian banks or banks operating in Jordan, the loan will be partially from Jordan to Jordan; and, the loan will be an addition to Jordan's indebtedness, currently 100 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), which has a negative effect on the investment climate. Investors expect the host country's external debt to not exceed 75 per cent of the GDP.

The treasury is not in need of the funds to borrow them on commercial basis and pay interest higher than the market. The Jordanian public opinion is solidly against commercial borrowing. It sees borrowing as a sign of weakness rather than strength and creditworthiness. It is extremely important to maintain this position as a safeguard against governments' possible indulgence in future borrowing, because borrowing is easy and tempting. It carries problems forward, to future governments and generations.

I am inclined to believe that the IMF urged Jordan to tap the Eurodollar market in order to reestablish Jordan's credit worthiness and ability to obtain funds from the capital market. Once that happens, the donor countries will tell us that we no more need their grants and soft loans. We should depend on the market.

We are familiar with the small advantages that borrowing commercially bring about. However, it is unwise to embark on this adventure and subject Jordan to international market tests prematurely. If the test succeeds, the benefits will be minimal, if it fails, the damage will be immense.

Sovereignty can be emphasised and advertised in various ways; the worst is to put it in the portfolios of foreign bankers.

Back to Mideast fundamentals: Peace or not?

By Flora Lewis

BINI CALAF, Menorca, Spain — The prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian peace are not fading, they are dead. At this point, it will take a whole new launch, at least as far-reaching as Oslo, to resuscitate them, and it will be harder than before because of the disillusion.

The Israeli government and the Palestinian leadership made the Oslo breakthrough by themselves, under Norwegian auspices but without outside intervention. Now it appears that the United States will have to provide the initiative, and it clearly is not yet prepared for that.

Before going to the Middle East, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright needs to make a fundamental assessment of where the two sides stand and their ultimate expectations, to reveal what if any common ground now exists. It is no longer much use to focus on specifics — how many suspected terrorists Yasser Arafat's police must arrest, which road Palestinians may travel and when.

Benyamin Netanyahu says he still wants peace, but security must come first. So Mrs. Albright should sit down with him and ask, then what? What is his long-term strategy? Just what kind of neighbourly coexistence does he envisage for the two societies, and how does he propose to achieve it?

She should sit with Yasser Arafat and ask the same questions. What does self-government mean? What mutual constraints are acceptable and enforceable?

Who has the gift of peace in his hands to give? Who will be the prime beneficiary? To most people, the obvious answer is both sides. But to those who say it is the other side, peace means only a victory that is impossible to achieve and that the United States cannot guarantee no matter what it does.

The time provided by the Oslo formula for incremental steps to build confidence for a final compromise has gone by. It has not brought any confidence. On the contrary, there is much less confidence than five years ago. But that does not mean that plunging straight into "final negotiations" on the most contested issues would bring any better results than edging up to them has done.

"Who has the gift of peace in his hands to give? Who will be the prime beneficiary? To most people, the obvious answer is both sides. But to those who say it is the other side, peace means only a victory that is impossible to achieve and that the United States cannot guarantee no matter what it does."

Judging by his recent decisions, Prime Minister Netanyahu's plan for Palestinian self-government appears to be a disconnected set of enclaves on a minimum of territory which can be disrupted, surrounded, denied any chance of viability at the sole discretion of Israeli authority.

He refuses to consider an independent or even federated state, with Jordan, whatever the constraints on arms and security, which is the minimum definition of peace for Palestinians. Otherwise, they quite reasonably consider themselves still to be living under occupation even if the Israeli soldiers are only at town limits and not patrolling or destroying houses anywhere they see fit within Palestinian areas, as they did before the start of autonomy.

It is a mistake to focus on a succession of individual knots in this terribly tangled web of aspirations, fears and needs — now street-by-street rules for Hebron, now a list of prisoners — and to proclaim that "progress" is being made in the "peace process." It only distracts from a requisite clarity of purpose.

It does not really matter whether the two suicide bombers of Jerusalem's central market were living within the borders of mandated Palestine or infiltrated from a Palestinian camp outside. They represent an extremist danger which Israel cannot fully eliminate among its own citizens — as shown by the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin or the Hebron massacre by the American-born Israeli Baruch Goldstein.

Fanatics are always a danger, and their society needs incentives to isolate and defang them. Mr. Netanyahu is relying on fierce collective punishment to provide the incentive, but it won't work. Such is the dialectic of guerrilla warfare.

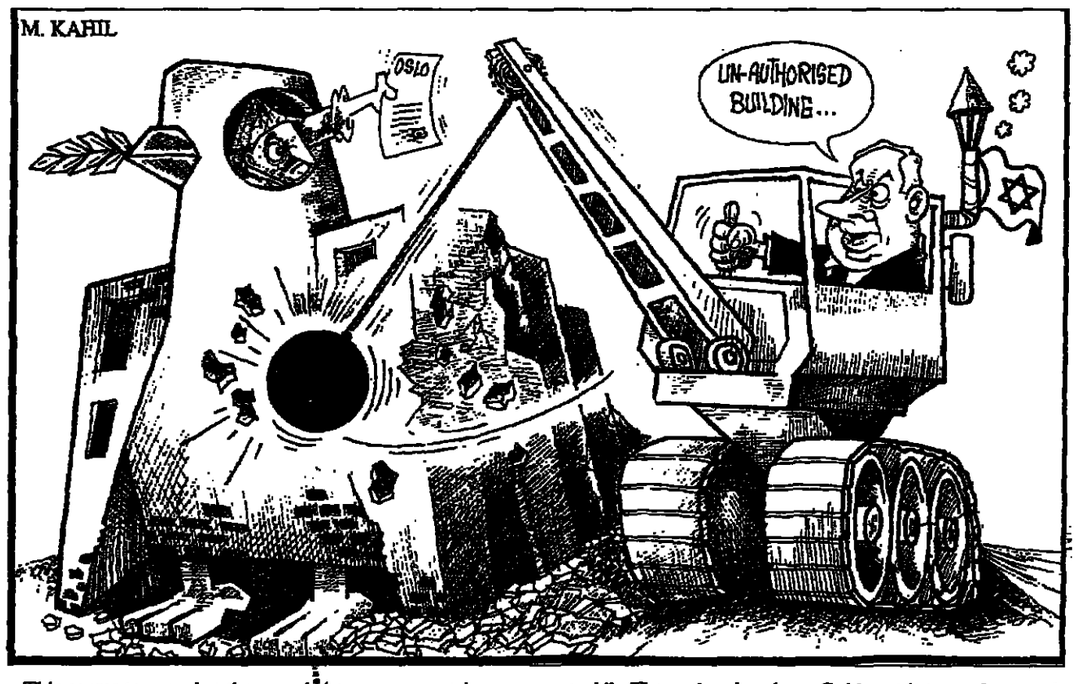
And then, what if Mrs. Albright puts the right questions and gets no forward-looking, usable answers, only more self-justifying polemics? At least the United States will know the reality with which it is dealing and stop stumbling along from disappointment to disappointment.

The United States has guaranteed the survival of Israel. It must and will stand by that. But the commitment implies a right to ask what kind of Israel, based on what intentions towards its neighbours, what is to be expected and what is the goal. If, after all the hopes, there is no current basis for achieving a peaceful settlement, then U.S. policy must take that candidly into account.

International Herald Tribune

Mideast: The solution is still 'land for peace'

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld



WASHINGTON — Benyamin Netanyahu has altered the terms of Middle East diplomacy in a way that confirms and protects his ruling Likud Party's reluctance to yield much territory and any sovereignty to the Palestinians. Bill Clinton and his diplomats give scant sign of addressing the implications of the change. Their innocence makes American policy increasingly prone to irrelevance.

In the old days, the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian struggle were territory and peace. The Israelis would give up captured territory, the Palestinians would settle into a normal relationship. Israel's Labour Party nailed those terms into the Oslo interim agreement of 1993, whose results Mr. Clinton hailed on the South Lawn.

Now there is no more talk of territory for peace — the basic deal that the company of nations has always embraced. The promise of Israel returning territory has been quietly moved off the table.

What the Palestinians are now offered is not territory in the old Labour sense, and certainly not anything like even a marginal state of their own. They are offered merely a status of self-rule heavily circumscribed by Israeli prerogatives, and a relationship with the Israelis regulated by Israeli needs of the moment.

Imagine that the Palestinians did everything the Israelis asked in the way of cracking down on terrorists — everything. They would get in return just a small, dependent misshapen territory carved up by Israeli roads and vulnerable to Israeli intervention the first time a kid threw a stone.

This seems to me what the Israelis in command are pursuing. They have wedded the claims of security to the claims of ideology and produced a political configuration that cannot possibly become the basis of the sort of negotiation that the United States encourages and that most people have in mind — including, at least in good cycles, perhaps a majority of Israelis.

and the government is now at the point where it is not asking to work out Israeli security on mutually agreed terms but simply to impose Israeli security requirements.

Just two days before the latest suicide bombing, Mr. Netanyahu was publicly celebrating his success in "lowering the level of terrorism" by inducing Palestinians to undertake

"What the Palestinians are now offered is not territory in the old Labour sense, and certainly not anything like even a marginal state of their own. They are offered merely a status of self-rule heavily circumscribed by Israeli prerogatives, and a relationship with the Israelis regulated by Israeli needs of the moment."

The Israelis are commonly thought of as realists in these matters. But realism would require a measure of enlightened cooperation, "restraining moves alongside the actions we take — things which perhaps the public doesn't know of, but of which I am extremely proud." Then the bombs went off, and suddenly Mr. Netanyahu had a long list of new things the Palestinians must immediately do to protect Israelis.

He is right, of course, in making high security demands on the Palestinians. His core demand here is right, too: The Palestinians cannot be allowed to use security cooperation as a lever to induce Israeli bargaining concessions.

The Egyptian and Jordanian leaders — as a close Netanyahu aide, Dore Gold, put it to me last week — did not let violence hover over the negotiating table. Nor should Yasser Arafat.

But it is wildly self-delusional, if it is not just plain cynical, for Israelis to imagine that their own political behaviour has no effect on the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) readiness to restrain both officially condoned and informally generated terrorism.

It also is delusional to think that even the fairest and most enlightened Israeli policy would lift from the Israelis the full curse of Palestinian terrorism. This awful phenomenon has sources beyond the normal political reach. But if normality is a prize that Israel cannot soon expect to win, then surely it can look forward to a diminution of terrorism and to the comforts of international cooperation and sympathy in the struggle against it.

As it is now, the Israeli position on terrorism involves an all-out and, if necessary, lonely struggle in which all tactics are justified. The resolve is to come down hard on Mr. Arafat and other offenders in order to demonstrate that Palestinian depredations have a cost.

Those who do not have to go about every day wondering if their fellow bus passenger is a suicide bomber have an obligation of empathy; Israelis monitor it closely. But an obligation of empathy also runs to Palestinians striving for a political objective — a state — that is considered reasonable and normal in most parts of the world.

At Oslo, Israelis bravely took a long step towards accommodating Palestinian political aspirations. Mr. Arafat subsequently made some but not enough effort to check terrorism. He must deliver. But he will be better able to deliver if he has something to show for it on the political side.

Respectful to a diplomatic fault of Israel's political constrictions, the Clinton administration needs to speak out strongly not only against terrorism but also for a political settlement based on side-by-side Israeli and Palestinian states.

The Washington Post

Featur

ing
lks at
dustrial
olicy
eminar

ntinued from page 1)

gan but rather to do that
a structured manner
volves academia, busi-
and government in Jor-
self in a sustained and
ained manner.
would like to emphasise
ers clear that the Jordan-
dustrial policy is in its
the Prince
ated.
here is an emphasis on
ational competitive-
and this is one of the
ems we face, with the
globalisation."
here are those who
ve that cooperation in an
and Islamic context is
portant. There are those
believe that cooperation
in the context of the 27
diterranean countries is
portant. There are those
believe that activating
the Euro-Med
nership is important. And
re are those who believe
the Euro-Atlantic coopera-
is as well as those who
ee in a sustained effort
West Asia learning from
Asia.
e Prince told his guests
"I do emphasise the
portance of this intimate
nge of knowledge and
portance of a frame-
k of information flow."
his country still lacks a
owledge base which is
ential in all aspects of
life. We cannot build
economic, political or
ial discourse without a
owledge base."
ormation is essential not
the industrial policy, but
all to the educational
agement, technological
agement and industrial
agement as part of a
ehensive approach
agement and the new
n of managing infor-
on leading to a self-con-
and knowledge-based
ial policy which is
ative," the Crown Prince
see related story on
p8.

udan,
ganda
neeting

ntinued from page 1)

rnment overtures
couraging."
Garang, however,
day dismissed Gen.
's efforts as self-serv-
nd ruled out immediate

the present time,
is interested to sell his
al agreement," the
leader told journalists,
ing to the deal cut with
er groups.
el Bashir) needs a hand-
from me. It is for his
ple," added Col.
ng.
Khartoum. First Vice
dent Al Zuabir
emned Salih called
Garang's failure to par-
e "an evasion and pro-
ation Col. Garang has
e resorted to whenever
for dialogue is made."
Garang has certain
ds, he can present
at the negotiating table
id of evading talks." Mr.
was quoted as saying
Akhbar Al Youm daily
day.
an Coordination Coun-
President Riek Machar
lso quoted in the state-
l Anbaa daily as saying
ng's evasion of talks is
ous," recalling that the
leader had failed to
for a meeting with him
mpala and also turned
an invitation to an
-sponsored meeting
Sudanese government
ation in Nairobi.

King talks at industrial policy seminar

(Continued from page 1)

Amman but rather to do that within a structured manner that involves academia, business and government in Jordan itself in a sustained and structured manner.

"I would like to emphasise that it is clear that the Jordanian industrial policy is in its infancy," the Prince observed.

"There is an emphasis on international competitiveness and this is one of the problems we face, with the term globalisation."

There are those who believe that cooperation in an Arab and Islamic context is important. There are those who believe that cooperation within the context of the 27 Mediterranean countries is important. There are those who believe that activating, as I do, of the Euro-Med partnership is important. And there are those who believe in the Euro-Atlantic cooperation as well as (those who believe in) a sustained effort of West Asia learning from East Asia.

The Prince told his guests that: "I do emphasise the importance of this intimate exchange of knowledge and the importance of a framework of information flow."

"This country still lacks a knowledge base which is dependable in all aspects of public life. We cannot build an economic, political or social discourse without a knowledge base."

Information is essential not only to industrial policy, but as well to the educational management, technological management and industrial management as part of a comprehensive approach management and the new system of managing information leading to a self-confident and knowledge-based national policy which is proactive," the Crown Prince said (see related story on page 8).

Sudan, Uganda meeting

(Continued from page 1)

government overtures "encouraging."

Col. Garang, however, Thursday dismissed Gen. Bashir's efforts as self-serving, and ruled out immediate talks.

"At the present time, Bashir is interested to sell his internal agreement," the rebel leader told journalists, referring to the deal cut with *splinter groups*.

"He (Bashir) needs a handshake from me. It is for his purpose," added Col. Garang.

In Khartoum, First Vice President Al Zuabir Mohammed Salih called Col. Garang's failure to participate "an evasion and procrastination Col. Garang has always resorted to whenever a call for dialogue is made."

"If Garang has certain demands, he can present them at the negotiating table instead of evading talks." Mr. Salih was quoted as saying by the Akhbar Al Youm daily Saturday.

Sudan Coordination Council President Riek Machar was also quoted in the state-run Al Anbaa daily as saying "Garang's evasion of talks is not new," recalling that the rebel leader had failed to show for a meeting with him in Kampala and also turned down an invitation to an IGAD-sponsored meeting with a Sudanese government delegation in Nairobi.

Human rights organisation warns about efforts to dispense with the refugee question 'so there will be nothing to talk about in the final status talks'

Following is a Solidarity International for Human Rights statement "On the Palestinian Refugees Issue" presented on Aug. 27, 1997, by Laura Drake, memeber of the board of directors and head of the SIHR delegation to the U.N. International Organisations Meeting held in Geneva:

FOR THE Palestinian people as a whole, inside and outside, the moment of truth is coming. Standing in the shoes of the Palestinian refugees outside, the ground underfoot has never been shakier. The "peace process," as it stands now, threatens to uproot certain among them one last time and disperse them to unknown and far away locations, as a hurricane picks up and scatters debris across the landscape.

Over the years, the refugee issue is one side of the core Palestinian issue triad (Jerusalem and self-determination are the other two). It began as a humanitarian issue, yet was gradually transformed into a political issue. This was among the greatest gains of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Palestinian people at large. The "peace process," in a move of back to the future, now threatens to turn it back into a strictly humanitarian issue, and to a lesser degree, into a security issue.

As an international human rights association, we hold that it is patently unhumanitarian to deal with a political issue concerning populations as if it were a humanitarian issue concerning mere individuals. One might say that the aggregate realisation of individual rights leads inductively to the realisation of the collective rights of the many, yet this is only true if the right of the collectivity has already been recognised. Individual rights only lead to collective rights so long as the individuals are dealt with in their collective context. The moment they are separated from one another they are politically atomised and thereby oppressed, both individually and collectively.

This is because the treatment of refugees as individual humanitarian "problems," sometimes called "cases," causes a fragmentation of their interest base, thereby depriving each Palestinian refugee of the strength of all the others. As an unprotected, depoliticised individual, his position is weakened by orders of magnitude, he stands small and vulnerable in front of the ravages of institutions and nations.

An individual refugee cannot hope to achieve, protect and preserve his internationally recognised rights, including but not limited to his national, cultural, economical and religious rights if he must face these mammoth political forces alone and without political leverage of his own. The individual Palestinian's only leverage is his people, his political representation, his steadfastness, and the Arab and international forces that stand beside him. Deprive him of these, and he will be forced to give up everything else: all his rights, past, present and future, for mere survival. It becomes every person for himself on the Palestinian side, while the Israeli side and the forces supporting it stand organised, politicised and unified in their destructive stance. The phenomenon of the Lebanon camps emptying themselves of large segments of their population is an early warning of the disaster that looms before us.

Some of the underground "refugee question" politically irrelevant and obsolete, to disempower the Palestinian refugees once and for all by disposing of their problem and expunging their rights. The aim is to eventually render them forgotten and expendable, by separating them from their leadership, their institutions, their rights, their hope, and most importantly, from each other.

"The Israelis and their supporters in the United States have been hard at work trying to find what they call 'solutions' for the Palestinian refugee problem that do not begin to address, much less satisfy, the basic internationally recognised Palestinian rights. We fear that their objective is really not to find solutions, but to find ways to render the entire subject of the 'refugee question' politically irrelevant and obsolete, to disempower the Palestinian refugees once and for all by disposing of their problem and expunging their rights. The aim is to eventually render them forgotten and expendable, by separating them from their leadership, their institutions, their rights, their hope, and most importantly, from each other."

The Israelis and their supporters in the United States have been hard at work trying to find what they call "solutions" for the Palestinian refugee problem that do not begin to address, much less satisfy, the basic internationally recognised Palestinian rights. We fear that their objective is really not to find solutions, but to find ways to render the entire subject of the refugee question in advance of the final status talks — so there will be nothing to talk about — are being spearheaded by certain members in the United States Congress. Congressman Benyamin Gilman of New York, as the head of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, has been at the forefront. He is the same congressman who has been working hard to cut off U.S. economic assistance to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and who has managed to close the PLO office in Washington, if only temporarily.

His delegates, in particular his hardline pro-Israeli staff member Deborah Bohdlander, were spotted in the Gulf Arab countries this past April. They were there to talk not only about Gulf security but also about the final status issues in the Middle East "peace process"; the objective was to eliminate two of those issues in advance of negotiations. As the congressional staff delegation was trying to convince the Gulf states to forget about occupied Arab East Jerusalem, an integral part of the occupied West Bank and capital of any future Palestinian state, and to accede to the "reality" of its unattainability and to acquiesce in Israel's eternal occupation of the city, the same delegation requested that each of the six southern Gulf states resettle 30,000 Palestinian refugees from Lebanon.

Among six Gulf states this equals 180,000 refugees. Israel would agree to the return of 75,000 more as a symbolic gesture; at the same time, it would expect Lebanon to permanently resettle 100,000 more in the name of "reciprocity." And indeed, these numbers add up to a total of 355,000 Palestinian refugees, which is precisely equal to the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon. Fortunately, the response from the Gulf states was that the solution to the Palestinian refugee problem is in Palestine, not in the Gulf. Needless to say, Mr. Gilman's staff delegation was also seen in Lebanon during the same time period; presently another of Gilman's delegations, presumably to be headed by him personally this time, is in Tel Aviv to meet with the Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. The coordination on final status between the U.S. Congress and the Israeli security establishment exists at the highest of levels, with the political and security issues tightly intertwined.

As for the human rights of the refugees, both as refugees and as Palestinians, these obviously have no place in the U.S.-Israeli deliberations, nor should anyone reasonably expect them to. Nor is this the first covert Israeli effort that has been made against the Palestinian refugees, particularly those who have taken refuge in Lebanon. The other effort concerned the use of Israeli leverage against Iraq: if Baghdad would agree to resettle all 350,000 of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and perhaps also some from Syria in Iraq's western desert, then Israel would help to get the sanctions lifted. If Iraq refused, Israel would be sure that they were never lifted. It was a typical exploitation of the "road to Washington runs through Tel Aviv" dictum; thankfully, the Iraqis were smart enough to reject it, at least for now, and no permanent damage thus far was done. Israel was compelled to terminate its Iraqi contacts due to vigorous complaints from the U.S. administration that its efforts were endangering its broader Iraq policy.

Of course, there was no guarantee that Israel would follow through on its side of any such bargain, just as it has not followed through in any way whatsoever to arrive at a historical accommodation with the Palestinian people. Israel's effort to use Iraq to dispense with the refugee issue and send the Palestinians far away from the border forever was a cynical attempt to exploit the human misery in Iraq as a result of the sanctions and that of the Palestinians in Lebanon because of the withdrawal of PLO and international charity funds in the wake of the Madrid Conference in 1991 and the Oslo agreement in 1993.

HAVE IT ALL...
WITH THE GLOBAL INTERNET.

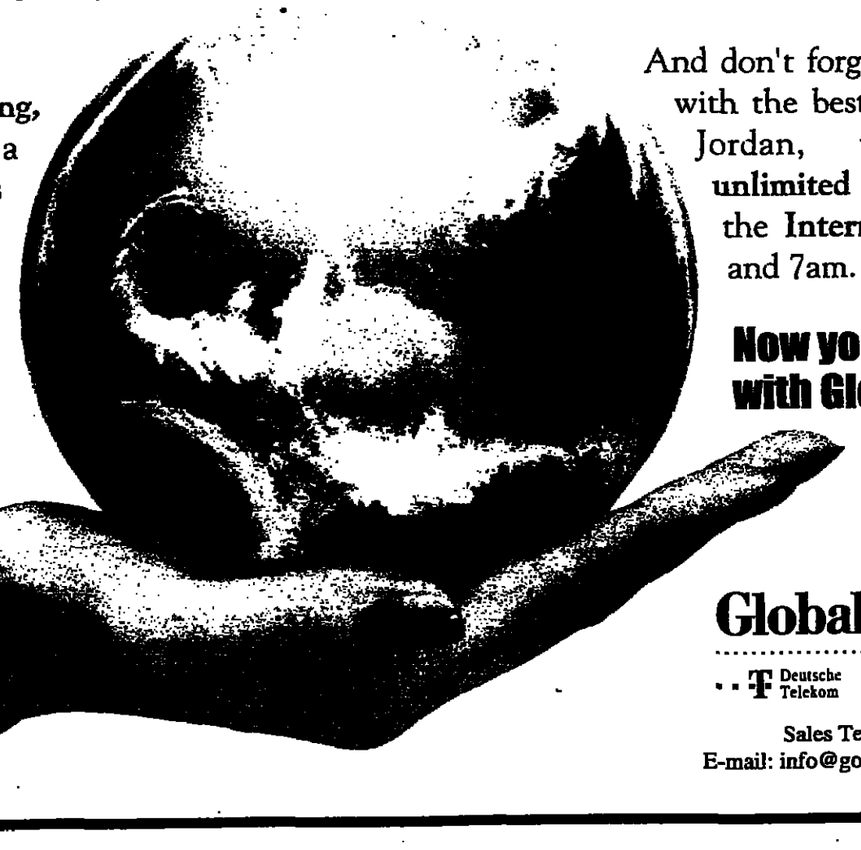
For starters you receive the fastest service in Jordan, through the quickest international connection speed (512 kbps) and modem speed (33.6 kbps). We have the highest number of telephone lines and modems to serve you, which means you can go anywhere you want to, quickly and efficiently.

Add to that our **Global Internet Roaming**, which allows you to get your e-mail with a local connection from 2,700 locations worldwide, and now you can really go places trouble free! And there is more...

Travel the world as you browse the **World Wide Web**, instantaneous delivery of local and international **e-mail**, local and international **Internet Relay Chat**, a **Newsgroup** with hundreds of Local and International topics, even a **Game Server** for you to play on-line games with others! The list is endless.

And don't forget, we provide you with the best price packages in Jordan, which includes **unlimited and free time** on the **Internet** between 11pm and 7am. Need we say more?

Now your world is one with Global One.



imageNET

GlobalOne
Deutsche Telekom · France Telecom · Sprint

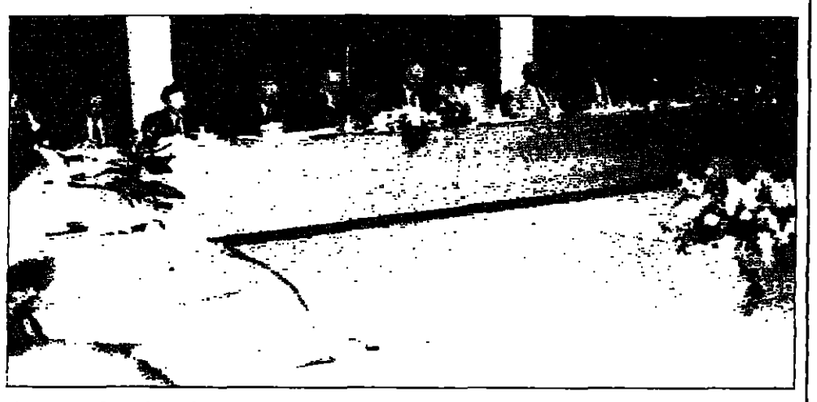
Sales Tel: 685101 • Fax: 700328
E-mail: info@go.com.jo http:// www.go.com.jo



His Majesty King Hussein presides over the seminar on industrial policy held at the Royal Scientific Society Saturday. The round table meeting was attended also by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior officials (Petra photo)

'Private dynamism' is the secret of Japan's success, expert tells Jordanians

By Samir Ghawi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



A scene showing the seminar during the afternoon session (Petra photo)

AMMAN — "Private dynamism" and not industrial policy was the most important factor behind the rapid economic growth in Japan, a Japanese expert told an industrial policy seminar and round-table held at the Royal Scientific Society Saturday.

The seminar and round-table was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and several ministers and senior government officials.

According to the Japanese expert, Hirohisa Kohama, economic professor at University of Shizuoka, the dynamism of the private sector, or in other words, the market mechanism is the secret of Japan's post-war economic success.

"Of course, industrial and export promotion policies played their own role. However, the implementation of industrial policy was in a manner assisting the efficiency-oriented management of the economy based on the dynamism of the private sector," Dr. Kohama explained.

The professor defined industrial policy as an interaction mechanism between the private sector and the government.

"It is true that the Japanese government, in particular MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry) implemented various industrial and export promotion policy measures in post-war Japan. However, MITI did not always lead the private sector and private companies did not always respond as expected by MITI," he said.

The lecturer highlighted the importance of macroeconomics stability for the private sector and market mechanism to play their role. He also listed several misunderstandings on Japan's economic development.

He said it is not true that Japan performed rapid economic growth because the initial income level was very high when Japan started the modern growth.

Dr. Kohama also mentioned macroeconomic stability as another misunderstanding noting that in the mid-1990s Japan experienced a slight deflation.

"Based on the long stable economy, many misunderstand Japan never experienced inflation," he said. "Just after the World War II Japan experienced a 3-digit inflation until the beginning of 1949."

The expert told his audience that non-Japanese and even young Japanese misunderstand Japan's leading sectors have been hi-tech industries and Japan has been faced with huge current account surplus.

He noted that more than one third of Japan's exports was textiles until the mid-50s.

Other misunderstandings mentioned by Dr. Kohama were that Japan is the original model of export-led growth and that the rapid industrialisation was led by the government.

The expert credited the Japanese economic success to competition in addition to private dynamism mentioned earlier.

"So far as competitive conditions are ensured even in protected and oligopolistic market, like post-war Japan, entrepreneurs have a strong incentive to improve productivity and international competitiveness," Dr. Kohama stressed.

He indicated that industrial policy designed to promote the private sector's initiative to improve competitiveness seems to be rational as long-term development policy.

According to the lecturer, Japanese manufacturers have been very much eager to technology improvement and new technology import.

"Even before trade liberalisation, Japanese manufacturers had pressures of the competition with foreign companies because they knew they had to compete with foreign companies in a near future," he said.

"This is one of the reasons they were eager to technology improvement in order to improve their international competitiveness," the expert added.

Dr. Kohama spoke about protection policy and gradual liberalisation noting that in the early phase, domestic industries in Japan were heavily protected and promoted. He added:

"However, all businessmen, economists and government officials knew that Japan should open the domestic market in the near future in the 1950s. They know trade liberalisation will be done in the 1960s and followed by capital liberalisation."

Dr. Kohama stressed that the government should announce the schedule of liberalisation.

(Continued on page 9)

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at ___ 30/08/97 18:22

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	FF	NLG	ITL
US Dollar	-	1.8462	0.6301	1.5189	127.48	1.3937	1801.25	2.0800	6.2235
DE Mark	0.5417	-	0.3410	0.8221	69.03	0.7544	974.65	1.1257	3.3692
GB Sterling	1.5870	2.9315	-	2.4113	186.83	2.2116	2860.75	3.3031	9.8842
CH Franc	0.6584	121.42	0.4141	-	77.33	0.9168	1185.11	137.27	4.0938
JP Yen	0.0085	1.5711	0.5357	1.2927	-	1.1858	15.32	176.86	5.2957
CA Dollar	0.7175	1.3305	0.4505	1.0944	1.19	-	1295.55	1.4978	4.4812
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0251	0.3498	0.0843	1535.16	0.7736	-	11.54	3.4545
NL Guilder	0.4808	88.80	0.3029	73.08	56.48	0.6704	866.12	-	2.9929
FR Franc	0.1607	0.2967	0.1012	24.4094	18.85	0.2239	33.41	33.4100	-

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7506	0.3770	3.6400	0.3053	3.6728	1538.00	3.3850
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2975	0.5325	5.1412	0.4311	5.1876	2172.32	4.7811
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0814	0.98	410.07	0.9025
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8781	9.9491	-	9.66	0.8097	9.74	4079.79	8.9793
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0839	1.01	422.53	0.9299
Kuwait Dinar	3.2760	2.3194	12.2870	1.2350	11.92	-	12.03	5038.49	9.9299
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	0.1026	0.9911	0.0831	-	418.75	0.9216
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4603	2.4388	0.2451	2.3667	0.1985	2.3880	-	2.2009
Egyptian	0.2954	0.2092	1.1080	0.1114	1.0753	0.0902	1.0950	454.36	-

Energy

Oils	Last	Keyfoss
Brent	18.99	19.17
W. Texa	20.14	20.04
Bonny	18.99	19.17
Dubai	17.60	17.70
UL Gas	217.00	213.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4928	0.1679	0.4054	31.336
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.503	0.1715	0.414	31.992
KW Dinar	3.2760	6.0533	2.0631	4.9801	384.91
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.902	1.6706	4.0339	311.72
CY Pound	1.8395	3.3937	1.1573	2.7916	215.89

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	323	323.5
Silver (oz's)	4.52	4.54
Platinum (oz's)	413	416
AL (3 Months)	1644	1646
CU (3 Months)	2186	2190
Zinc (3 Months)	1494	1499
Lead (3 Months)	620	623
NI (3 Months)	6730	6750

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period / C'ncy	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
USD	5.43	5.59	5.69	5.78	5.87
GBP	6.94	7.00	7.12	7.18	7.31
JPY	0.44	0.45	0.45	0.58	0.47
DEM	3.12	3.21	3.35	3.43	3.44
FRF	3.23	3.31	3.40	3.52	3.58
CHF	1.33	1.38	1.53	1.43	1.79
ITL	6.73	6.70	6.80	6.43	6.37

Main Equity Indices

Source	Index	Value	Chnge	% Chnge	High	Low	Pr Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	7994.52	-26.71	-0.33	8023.1	7988.5	8021.2
Newyork	S&P 500*	938.66	-2.89	-0.29	939.47	938.28	939.35
London	FT-SE 100	4983.7	25.3	0.51	4994.1	4962.5	4958.4
Tokyo	NIKKIE 225	19157.12	-95.11	-0.49	19394	19125	19252
Paris	CAC 40	2960.83	-18.64	-0.63	2992.6	2951	2979.3
Frankfurt	DAX	4253.87	30.24	0.72	4278.5	4241.7	4223.4

Energy

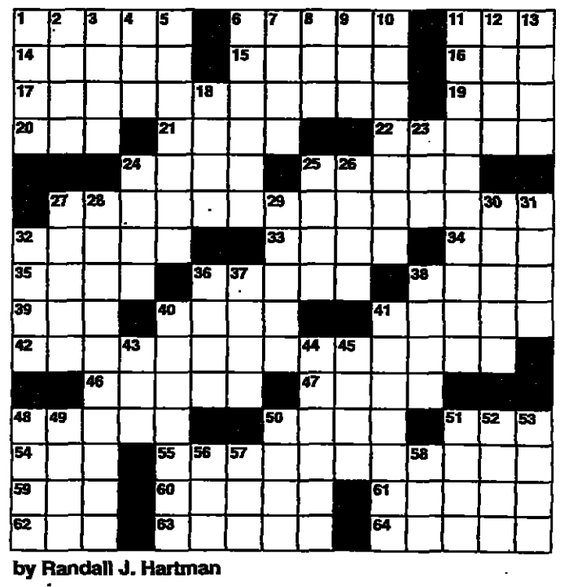
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	170	Spot
Cocoa ($/ton)	1596	Spot
Sugar ($/ton)	347.6	Spot
Wheat ($/ton)	143	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	22.02	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	165	Spot
Barley ($/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice ($/ton)	450	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1282	1.1318
DE Mark	0.3808	0.3827
CH Franc	0.4639	0.4662
FR Franc	0.113	0.1136
JP Yen	0.5999	0.6029
NL Guilder	0.3382	0.3399
IT Lira	0.2912	0.2932

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

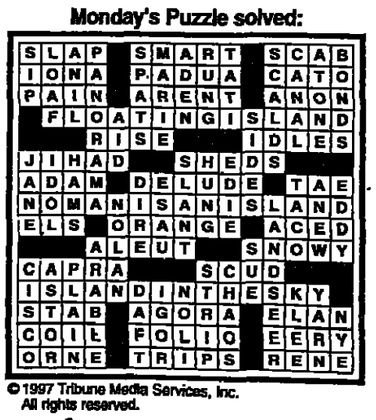


ACROSS
1 Result of a fast break?
6 Thyroid, for one
11 Status —
14 Dumbfound
15 Spokes
16 Samovar
17 Former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
19 Time gone by
20 Wind dir.
21 Seeded
22 PC key
24 Seasoned
25 Mail
27 British statesman
32 Humble home
33 Maui dance
34 Cost of service
35 Dams
36 "— and Punishment"
38 Used a loom
39 Egyptian cobra
40 Buffoon
41 Makes an effort
42 U.S. astronomer
46 Propelled the Argo
47 Chinese city
48 Firearm
50 Tommy's gun
51 Dundee denial
54 Kimono sash
55 Name in fashion
59 Gibson or Tillis
60 Negatively charged particle
61 Not widespread
62 Paul Bunyan's tool
63 Dapper
64 Harnesses

DOWN
1 "Arsenic and Old —"
2 Biblical prophet
3 Ivy League school
4 Weapon
5 Reflective
6 Farmer
7 Grass plot
8 Summer cooler
9 Zip
10 Predicament
11 Heraldic flower
12 Prod
13 — about (approximately)
18 Vatican resident
23 Immediately
24 Frees
25 Old World plant
26 Part
27 Corpulent
28 Modest behavior
29 Coldness
30 Even
31 Spike and Bruce
32 PDQ
36 Sheltered bay
37 Way
38 Lark's cousin
40 Hook-and-ladder rider
41 Sparkling
43 Ripken of baseball
44 Prayer
45 Cartel acronym
48 City on the Tevere
49 Goat kin
50 Las Vegas machine
51 Bottle part
52 Wings
53 Building additions
56 Genetic material
57 Small role
58 Court

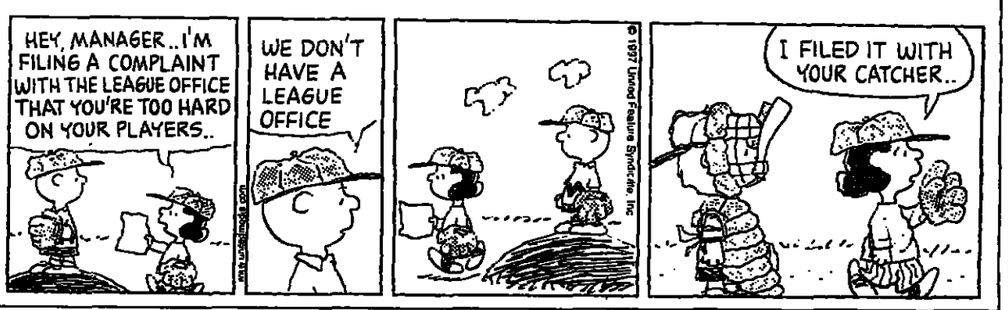
by Randall J. Hartman

Monday's Puzzle solved:



© 1997 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

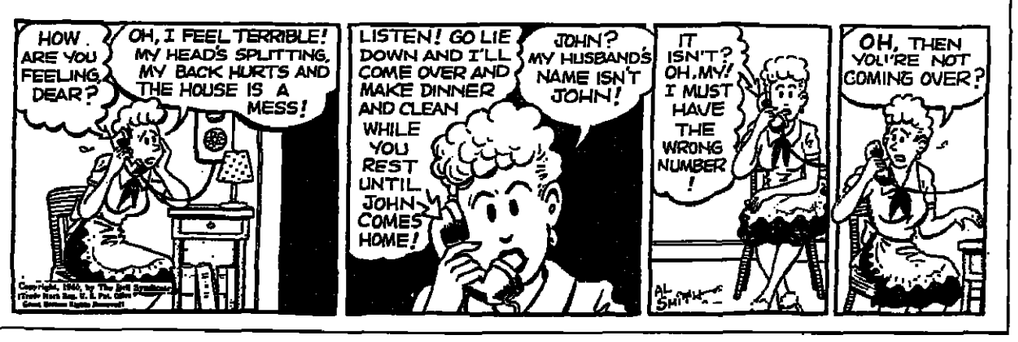
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



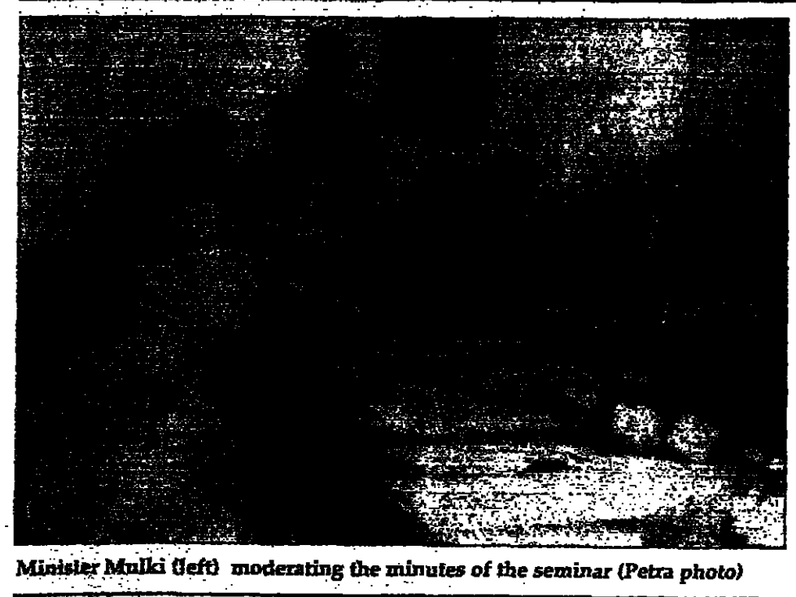
HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Counteract busy and generous today with a quiet and studious evening. Enjoy public events which appeal to you, and help your community. This is a good time for you to meet knowledgeable people.
TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan your career strategy for the days ahead today, then devote the rest to friends and your mate. Focus on the feelings of others who may feel neglected. Later this evening will be good for spending quality time with your loved ones.
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your logical and visionary thinking affords you better ways to gain your wishes. Home life proves most fulfilling, especially if it is spent with your loved ones. Keep a promise later this evening with a bigwig.
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Today could be personally demanding, so try to remain calm and make the best of any difficult situations. Try to ameliorate friction with your mate and your superior with lots of quiet talk. Keep your control.
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Show off your ambitions today and listen to an outside fellow associate who has fine, modern ideas, make sure that your presentation is as fine as your ideas, thereby you will gain the attention of a bigwig.
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Help your loved ones today by taking on more duties at home. Set aside some time for your creative career activities. A despondent friend could use a call of support, so make the effort to render some assistance.
LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be generous at home today and try to make your home more charming for those you invite. An inspired idea could benefit both yourself and others, so make every effort to get the advice of knowledgeable people.
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This morning labour to strengthen the family bond, so keep your mind focused on what you really want. Retire early this evening for good health, thereby you will be prepared to deal with stressful days ahead.
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may find it necessary to take an outsider's advice today, however make sure it is expert. Labour to make a cherished distant cause more feasible, thereby you will gain the recognition of a bigwig.
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This morning plan your days ahead ambitiously, thereby you can make the best of your career activities. Think about alternate avenues toward success. Relax with your loved ones later this evening, thereby you can show support.
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Handle an important practical matter today, however plan recreation for the days ahead. Try to economise although recent demands are great, thereby you will have extra funds for an emergency which could occur at any time.
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make your plans privately for the least obstruction with your career activities. Plan your days ahead carefully to avoid waste during this crucial period. You should not overspend on any items you desire.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz





Minister Mulki (left) moderating the minutes of the seminar (Petra photo)

Industrial associations played major role between the government and the private sector in Japan

(Continued from page 8)

"Gradual and step-by-step liberalisation is desirable but liberalisation schedule should not be substantially changed by political pressure once it is announced," he said.

He added: "Private manufacturers should make every effort to improve their competitiveness by the scheduled time of liberalisation."

According to Dr. Kohama, efficiency-oriented economic management, severe competition in protected and oligopolistic market and the consciousness of international competition have important implications to the contemporary developing and transitional economies.

Under the subtitle "Lessons for Economic Reform," the lecturer examined two aspects: The mentality change and the essence of industrial policy.

He said: There are no doubt conditions which must be met before industrial policy-based ways of thinking tailored to each nation become possible. In a situation where macroeconomic stability has yet to be attained, we believe that it would be difficult to consider mid- and long-term industrial policies.

Even if such macroeconomic stability has been achieved, it will still be difficult to implement industrial policies if so-called "development of a market economy" and "price liberalisation" are performed in an environment where people believe that these measures will automatically place the economy on a prosperous course. I believe that these initial illusions must be dispelled.

What is important is that people gain confidence in their government, and that the government works together with its people to determine mid- and long-term visions for the national economy.

It is essential that a government shares with its people information such as what emergency policies should be adopted immediately, and what are the country's mid-term production and export goals.

As the government meets these targets one-by-one, the people's trust in their government will grow.

On the essence of industrial policy, Dr. Kohama said:

As shown in the Japan's experience, the essence of industrial policy is, (i) cooperation between government and private industry (intimate exchanges of information), and (ii) fierce competition within protected or even oligopolistic markets.

It is an immense illusion to imagine that internationally competitive industries will suddenly appear simply if industrial protection, capital incentive measures, export promotion policies (export financing and tax exemption systems), and policy financing systems are adopted and implemented.

The second speaker at the seminar was Seiichiro Yonekura who emphasised the concept of information flows.

He highlighted the important roles played by industrial associations. "One of these roles, the knowledge/information-creating function between the government and private sector, is very essential to the success of the Japanese industrial policies," he pointed out.

"Located midway between government and individual enterprises, these industrial associations relayed information in both directions and thereby increased the effectiveness of industrial policy," Dr. Yonekura explained.

He added: "Furthermore, industrial associations, by reducing the asymmetrical nature of information flows between the government and the corporate sector, created new knowledge/information through dynamic interaction between the two parties."

Dr. Yonekura listed the following nine activities handled by industrial associations:

1. Product promotion
2) Labour relations
3) Standard setting
4) Data collection
5) Research and development
6) Providing economic services, such as joint purchasing, member discounts, management advice, insurance... etc.
7) Educational services
8) Conferences and general membership meetings
9) Public relations

Considering the activities in terms of the flow of information between government, industrial associations and individual enterprises, the speaker identified the following four basic functions of industrial associations:

(a) Pressure group function (upward flow of information)

(b) Policy implementation function (downward flow)

(c) Cartel function (horizontal flow)

(d) A knowledge/information creation function (upward and downward flow).

The expert went on to underline the importance of industrial associations for having promoted interaction between the government and the enterprises.

"By providing the government with information on the market, on technology and from individual enterprises, they have not only helped to make industrial policy more effective, they have also played the role of systematically integrating financing measures, the transfer of technology, market surveys and export activities," Dr. Yonkura emphasised.

He concluded by saying: "In implementing economic controls during the war, Japan's industrial associations fulfilled the important function of promoting information flows in two directions, and in the post-war environment they have taken on roles not covered by government and firms, the wide-ranging tasks of policy formulation, implementation, and modification, eliminating the asymmetry in information between the two. All this needs to be acknowledged as the vital complementary role that industrial associations have played in industrial policy through the post-war period."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/08/1997

	PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
	298.000	230.000	ARAB BANK	13.6	1.35	17	600	177780	295.00	296.50	1.50+
W	2.940	1.680	JOR.NATIONAL EX.	E	0.00	8	1795	3481	1.95	1.94	.01-
	3.600	2.750	BANK OF JORDAN	6.6	0.00	5	755019	2438688	3.08	3.15	.07+
	1.210	.890	MID.EAST INV.EX.	59.8	0.00	3	750	681	.91	.91	-
	2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV.EX.	8.3	7.51	15	10375	23191	2.25	2.25	-
	5.200	4.550	THE HOUSING EX.	14.2	4.08	7	6350	30163	4.75	4.75	-
	4.180	2.440	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	11.4	0.00	16	759869	2454257	3.10	3.20	.10+
	3.870	3.450	ARAB JOR. INV.EX.	17.3	0.00	1	750	2700	3.60	3.60	-
	4.060	3.520	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	15.8	3.08	8	1524	5925	3.90	3.89	.01-
+	2.400	1.000	BEIT.AL-MAL (BAITAL)	.6	15.31	2	350	341	1.01	.98	.03-
	BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 227.62 %CHG: +0.45			82	1537382	5137205			
	1.620	1.530	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	19	12471	20709	1.66	1.66	-
	7.500	6.000	VHCLS. OWNERS FED.	7.6	5.05	1	6000	41580	6.60	6.93	.33+
	1.550	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	g	0.00	13	5800	8135	1.40	1.41	.01+
	1.010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	1	1250	1150	.92	.92	-
	.810	.480	JORDAN INTL.TRAD.	26.7	0.00	8	7250	3770	.53	.52	.01-
+	8.830	6.750	ALEX'I	12.0	7.46	1	300	2010	6.75	6.70	.05-
	3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	8.8	0.00	15	4700	15687	3.38	3.37	.01-
	1.220	.930	ZARKA EDUCATION	g	0.00	9	9716	10014	1.05	1.04	.01-
	2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.2	6.36	11	3700	6428.	1.74	1.73	.01-
	1.010	.640	UNION LAND DEV.	g	0.00	1	250	175	.70	.70	-
	SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 111.78 %CHG: -0.14			81	51437	109658			
	4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.9	2.86	29	10617	40762	3.88	3.84	.04-
	4.140	2.860	JOR.PHOSPHATE MINES	10.7	2.60	3	25000	96250	3.89	3.85	.04-
	7.080	5.400	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.3	3.26	7	40135	246024	6.00	6.13	.13+
	10.310	9.070	JOR. PETROL.REFINERY	9.9	8.67	18	722	7405	10.31	10.25	.06-
+	7.200	4.700	JORDAN TANNING	5.6	6.52	6	557	2542	4.70	4.60	.10-
	3.260	1.620	INDUSTRIAL COMN.AGR.	g	0.00	8	913	1531	1.62	1.70	.08+
	4.250	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.4	4.83	25	4063	16756	4.12	4.14	.02+
+	7.250	5.900	JOR.CERAMIC IND.	6.0	3.45	4	500	2895	6.10	5.79	.31-
	5.650	4.300	DAR ALDAWA DV.INV.	13.5	4.55	11	9302	51157	5.48	5.50	.02+
	3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM.IND.	5.3	11.11	4	1650	3698	2.22	2.25	.03+
	.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	7	2800	1288	.46	.46	-
	1.290	1.000	ARAB PAPER CONV.IND.	32.4	0.00	2	200	211	1.04	1.06	.02+
	.770	.510	NATIONAL INDS.	g	0.00	6	9250	4800	.52	.52	-
	1.200	.510	INTEGRTD.PETRO.CHEM.	g	0.00	13	4550	2503	.56	.55	.01-
	.940	.530	JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS.	g	0.00	1	650	429	.66	.66	-
	.920	.530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	g	0.00	2	1000	610	.61	.61	-
	1.670	1.220	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	16.7	5.34	5	2500	3265	1.31	1.31	-
	1.960	1.060	UNIV. MODN.INDS.	P	.20	9	5000	6450	1.29	1.29	-
	1.310	.920	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	12.4	10.87	6	850	775	.92	.92	-
	1.620	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.4	4.58	1	250	383	1.52	1.53	.01+
	1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	2	350	299	.86	.86	-
	2.090	1.340	EL -ZAY READY WEAR	54.5	0.00	9	5000	7615	1.50	1.55	.05+
	1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	4	3500	4165	1.19	1.19	-
	1.180	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	46.8	0.00	34	30550	31174	.99	1.03	.04+
	INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 120.88 %CHG: +0.55			216	159909	532984			
	GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 165.28 %CHG: +0.45			379	1748728	5779847			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/08/1997

	.630	.340	CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE	g	0.00	2	2000	700	.34	.35	.01+
	.650	.400	JOR.TRADE FAC.	10.7	0.00	17	32250	12900	.40	.40	-
W	.950	.540	JOR.FIN.INV.CO.	P	0.00	33	38652	22659	.57	.59	.02+
	.840	.660	UNION INV. 50%	g	0.00	14	59500	11970	.71	.70	.01-
	.570	.370	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	g	0.00	41	223200	87218	.39	.40	.01+
N	.950	.720	AL-SHARQ INV.CO.	P	0.00	2	1998	1698	.85	.85	-
N	.950	.610	AL-DAHLIYAH 75%	71.0	0.00	15	89000	43610	.74	.74	-
	.480	.200	JOR.INDS.MATCH-JEMCO	g	0.00	3	5250	1313	.25	.25	-
	.750	.400	NATL.MULT.ENG.MANICO	g	0.00	12	14650	6593	.46	.45	.01-
	.820	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	9	14450	10985	.77	.76	.01-
	.580	.430	ARAB ELECT.INDS.	g	0.00	2	10150	5075	.50	.50	-
	1.190	.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	g	0.00	2	600	480	1.04	1.05	.01+
	.670	.550	NAZI PHARM. 85%	E	0.00	7	11500	5520	.63	.63	-
+	.570	.320	INDS. ENG.	g	0.00	14	12550	3916	.32	.31	.01-
N	1.000	.700	NAT.ALUMINIUM. 75%	P	0.00	10	9000	4230	.72	.72	-
	.860	.590	MID.EAST COMPLEX	7.4	16.67	8	6750	4050	.60	.60	-
	3.750	3.420	ARAB STEEL PIPES	28.4	2.86	2	11000	38500	3.59	3.50	.09-
	GRAND TOTAL					194	542542	261434			

Bank stock swap sends AFM business up

AMMAN (R) — A multi-million-dollar exchange of Jordanian banking shares sent the value of turnover on the Amman Financial Market soaring Saturday, brokers said.

The JD4.9 million ($6.9 million) swap of Bank of Jordan and Jordan Kuwait Bank shares pushed overall turnover to a dizzy JD5.78 million and nudged the official share index up 0.69 per cent to 165.68 points.

The total value of turnover on the bourse has been little more than JD500,000 a day in recent weeks.

Brokers said Bank of Jordan Chairman Tawfiq Fakhouri, who is also a major shareholder in Jordan Kuwait Bank and supported a failed bid to merge the two banks earlier this year, sold shares in Jordan Kuwait Bank worth over JD2.4 million.

He sold them to the Housing Bank, a leading share owner and market mover on the stock exchange, in return for Jordan Bank shares of the same value, the brokers said.

Jordan Bank shares rose JD0.100 to JD3.200 and Jordan Kuwait Bank shares rose JD0.070 to JD3.150.

Brokers also reported foreign-backed buying in Arab Potash Company, which rose to JD6.130 and Jordan Phosphate Mines, which slipped slightly to JD3.850.

Arab Bank, which accounted for the lion's share of business over the last week, rose JD1.500 to JD296.500, close to its record high of JD298 registered in July.

The bank's shares are expected to benefit from Sept. 1 scrapping of foreign ownership limits on some stocks.

Overall, rising and falling shares were matched at 14 each Saturday, with shares in another 16 companies trading but closing unchanged.

The private pearl index of the 45 best-performing shares in terms of turnover and financial performance, fixed at 100 points at the end of 1994, rose 0.02 per cent to 80.59 points, 3.36 per cent down since the start of the year.

Abu Shakra Trading Agency, launches a new fragrance Envy, from GUCCI

ENVY is a floral transparent, inspired by the scent of the vine flower, with a sparkling, shiny green freshness and natural sensuality. Mr. Rami Abu Shakra, General Manager of the Abu Shakra Trading Agency, introduces this new fragrance from Gucci Envy.

The bottle is standing in the light, so pure you don't dare to touch it. It is so simple you look at the bottle and you dream of a woman in a pant suit. A bit androgynous, very confident, sexy.

Modern and pure, shiny yet chic. Transparent packaging emphasising the beauty of the bottle almost as if there were no packaging. But you know it is there Envy.

Gucci Envy is available at all Abu Shakra's showrooms and some refined perfumeries.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"They decided not to reduce my annual salary, but from now on a year equals sixteen months."

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 684311-699634

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI Jewellers.Gems dealers.Unique designs in18k Gold · At Amra Forum Hotel Shops Phone5527118 Also in Brazil ·

Many villas and apartments for rent and sale furnished or unfurnished
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel:- 810605-810609
Fax:- 810520
Mobile:- 079/30007

STUDIO HAIG
Professional quality in 1 hour service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:
* JUMBO photo size 30% larger.
* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm.
Shmeisani - Opposite Grindlays Bank.
Phone: 604042
Sweifieh Tel: 823891

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

SECURITY HOSPITALITY GASTRONOMY
New Low Season Rates. Fax 863051
HOTEL Fuheis 863944 Sweifieh

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

AIRPORT EXPRESS
Modern Air-Conditioned Busses Around the CLOCK Every 30 Minutes from Abdali to Airport and Back
Special Reduced Fares at 500 Fils For Airport Staff and our Frequent Customers
For Further Details call
Airport Branch 08-51531
Abdali Branch 653313

Your Address In Amman
CRYSTAL
Quality Serviced Suites
* One & Two Bedrooms * Fully Equipped Kitchenettes * Daily & Long Stay * Reasonable Rates
Tel 692622 Fax 674551

CROWN HOTEL
* OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL
* TENNIS & SQUASH COURTS
* SAUNA, JACUZZI & MASSAGE
* FITNESS ROOM
Tel: 758180
Radio & tv station RD.

SANABEL REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
For details please call
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

The place to be if its on CD
We buy, sell & trade CDs
New arrivals Daily
LARGEST SELECTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CD-ROM, GAMES, SOFTWARE & MUSIC
Shmeisani, next to shmeisani post office
Tel. 700624 - Fax 604183

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUCCK

IMNEC

JASTUD

SEXOUD



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : ALL

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SAVOR COLIC FIXING TRAGIC
Answer: Why she tried the cigar – FOR A "GAG"



Venus Williams of the United States celebrates at the end of her match against eighth seed Anke Huber of Germany during the third round of the U.S. Open. Williams upset Huber 6-3 6-4 (Reuters photo)



Third seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov, from Russia screams after losing a game in the second set of his second round U.S. Open match against Australian Mark Woodforde (Reuters photo)

Agassi feeling in the pink again

NEW YORK (AFP) — Former world number one Andre Agassi has not felt this good on a tennis court in a long time — since reaching the finals here at the U.S. Open two years ago to be exact.

Agassi is shaking off the longest slump of his career, which has seen him slide to 63rd in the rankings, and talking of retaking the tennis supremacy he lost after falling to Pete Sampras in the 1995 final here.

Agassi is wearing pink shirts, making opponents blue and having fun playing tennis for the first time in a very long while.

"I'm starting to put together my game again. It's starting to feel great to be out there," Agassi said.

"My heart, my desire, my will is pushing me forward again. I will just do the best I can with that. I believe it's enough to get back."

Agassi beat 107th-ranked Romanian Adrian Voinea 6-0, 6-2, 6-2, here Friday at the U.S. Open, advancing to a third-round match with Australia's Mark Woodforde.

Agassi said he has not felt so good "for any period of time, really (in) a couple of years. Just feeling good out there again, starting to beat some of these guys like this, it feels nice.

"I'm in familiar waters again. I know I will be playing even better in the next match."

Woodforde, ranked 43rd, pulled off the upset of the tournament Friday by beating third seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov. Woodforde also beat Agassi 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, at Indianapolis two weeks ago in Agassi's final U.S. Open tuneup.

Agassi is 11-10 this year, having missed the three prior Grand Slams. He was resting during the Australian Open and nursing a sore wrist during the French Open and Wimbledon. Losses had sapped his confidence.

"There were times where just the bottom line struggle of wanting to play, but being a little out of sync, my court feel not there, finding guys controlling points against you, that's not fun when you have experienced the top level," Agassi said.

Despite the setbacks, the American star has not given up on 1997.

"I'm making strides again. I can certainly get a little something out of the rest of the year," Agassi said. "It would be a grand slam to all of a sudden win this thing, no pun intended. That obviously could turn everything around."

Agassi became the first unseeded U.S. Open champion since 1966 here when he took the title in 1994. But event he admits the circumstances leading to that triumph were far different than those he faces this time around.

"In '94, I was coming off wrist surgery at the start of the year," he said. "I played the whole year. I was working up and building momentum. My game was there for the U.S. Open.

"This year has been more up and down, less consistent of a groove. Over the last few weeks, it's starting to come together.

That's a great sign for the U.S. Open and it's also a great sign beyond this to start getting myself back to where I'm playing this way all the time."

That would mean getting back into position to challenge Sampras for the number one position, renewing a rivalry that tennis has sorely missed. Agassi himself has missed the thrill of elite-level tennis.

"I miss so much about being up top," he said. "The fact I'm the one that has kind of disappeared for a while, that's kind of at the end of a long list of things that I miss. You can't start talking about a rivalry with somebody who has accomplished as much as Pete has until you prove you're in position to challenge it. I haven't been there."

There is envy is Agassi's voice as he reflects on the 10 career Grand Slam titles of Sampras, two shy of Roy Emerson's all-time record.

"You can't look at anything that Pete has done and do anything but marvel at it. It's phenomenal," Agassi said. "Son has won how many Grand Slams? Sometimes I get a little pissed at him."



Unseeded Andre Agassi from the United States hits a return to opponent Adrian Voinea from Romania during their second round U.S. Open match (Reuters photo)

U.S. Open

Woodforde and Williams wind up winners

NEW YORK (AFP) — Australian veteran Mark Woodforde and American youngster Venus Williams sprang surprise victories Friday to advance at the $11.8 million U.S. Open tennis championships.

Woodforde, better known as half of the world's top doubles team with Todd Woodbridge, showed off his singles skills with a straight-set win over world number three and third seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

Williams, 17 and ranked 66th in the world, beat eighth-seeded German Anke Huber 6-3, 6-4 in 64 minutes to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in her fledgling career.

At eighth in the world, Huber was also the highest-ranked player that Williams had ever beaten.

When Huber dumped a shot into the net on match point, the lanky teenager skipped up the net beaming broadly, the beads that decorate her hair bouncing and clicking.

Huber, aware that her 34 unforced errors figured large in the defeat, was grim as she congratulated Williams.

Williams admitted that Huber's mistakes made her look a little better than she might have.

"She didn't make me play a lot of long points," Williams said.

"A lot of times she missed the shot. Missed a lot of shots in the net, a couple of double faults on some key points, so I think it was a lot of her that helped me with that match."

Williams' joy was increased by the fact that Huber had beaten her in the WTA Tour event in Los Angeles earlier this month.

"This time I was really ready," Williams said. "The last time I played her, I really thought I was going to win, but I didn't pull that one out."

All the other seeds in action advanced smoothly.

World number two Monica Seles, hoping to add a third U.S. Open crown to her cache after runner-up finishes in the past two years, reached the round of 16 with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Miriam Oremans.

She'll play ninth seed Mary Pierce of France, who beat Natasha Zvereva 7-6 (7/2), 6-1.

Zvereva was warned for unsportsmanlike conduct in the second set after she swatted a ball in frustration and it hit a ball girl in the face.

Zvereva could have been defaulted, but officials ruled she hadn't intended to hit the ball girl and settled on a warning instead.

Fifth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa beat Flora Perfetti of Italy 6-2, 7-5 to advance to a match with 11th-seeded Romanian Irina Spirlea, who beat Lilia Osterloh of the United States 6-2, 7-5.

Williams will face unseeded South African Joanette Kruger, who ended the run of Thai Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-7 (2/7) 7-5, 6-4.

And unseeded Sandrine Testud, who ousted French Open champ Iva Majoli in the second round, beat Germany's Elena Wagner 6-1, 6-3 to set up a clash with Slovakia's Karina Habsudova, an 0-6, 7-5, 6-1 winner over Magdalena Maleeva.

Michael Chang, the second seed and runner-up here last year to Pete Sampras, gave up a set but never looked in real danger from U.S. wild card Jeff Salzenstein.

Chang defeated Salzenstein 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the third round, double faulting on his first match point then firing his sixth ace of the match on his second.

Fifth seed Marcelo Rios of Chile outlasted Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/3). Pat Rafter, the 13th-seeded Australian, served 15 aces as he overwhelmed Sweden's Magnus Norman 6-2, 6-1, 6-2.

Spanish seventh seed Sergi Bruguera beat South African Grant Stafford 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3).

Kafelnikov, who helped Woodforde as Huber helped Williams with a stream of unforced errors, became the highest of the five seeds to fall in the first five days of the tournament, joining fourth seed Goran Ivanisevic and number five Thomas Muster on the scrap heap.

Woodforde lined up a meeting with former world number one Andre Agassi, unseeded this year just as he was when he won the title in 1994.



Second seed Michael Chang of the United States makes a backhand return during his second round match against Jeff Salzenstein of the United States at the U.S. Open August 29. Chang won 4-6 6-2 6-3 6-4 (Reuters photo)

U.S. Open diary

• Tennis greats to honor Mandela: Andre Agassi and Boris Becker are among the tennis stars will gather in Cape Town, South Africa, on December 12-14 to honor South African president Nelson Mandela. The festival will be a charity function to raise money for the children's fund that bears Mandela's name. Other who have said they will attend include Wayne Ferreira, Leander Paes, Goran Ivaniseic, Todd Martin, Richard Krajicek and Mal Washington.

• Fan outfires pro in serve duel: Richard Storey, a 39-year-old tennis fan from Vancouver, Canada, defeated ATP Tour player David Witt of the United States here Friday in a serve speed challenge at the U.S. Open. Storey posted serves of 133, 132 and 126 miles per hour while Witt was clocked at 118 mph, 115 mph and 110 mph. "I'm excited I won," Storey said. "But I'm going to be back this week to try for my goal of 146 mph." Storey smashed a 142-mph serve in warming up for the competition, which would match the ATP Tour record owned by Australia's Mark Philippoussis. Storey challenged the ATP's three 140-mph servers — Philippoussis, Britain's Greg Rusedski and Spain's Julian Alonzo. Alonzo accepted but withdrew Friday due to a sore right wrist. Witt took the challenge after coming fifth in serve speed last year on the tour with a 134 mph effort.

• Doubling up: Mark Woodforde, owner of 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, said playing as part of a pair has boosted his ability in in singles. Woodforde, 31, upset third seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov in straight sets at the U.S. Open on Friday, and said the Russian might benefit from more doubles play. "If he continues to play a few more doubles matches, I think he would be able to step it up in a singles match, where he can serve and volley a whole lot more," Woodforde said. "I'm certainly a better player for playing singles and doubles." Woodforde said doubles might also help Andre Agassi's ailing game. "If he played more doubles, he would be more of a complete singles player, and be willing to come to the net more, try to serve, volley a little bit more," Woodforde said. "Look at (John) McEnroe and (Stefan) Edberg, great players of number one singles and number one doubles ranking at the same time. "I think they're the only two that maybe have done that of recent time. I wish there were more players that did that."

• Hingis about town: The brevity of Martina Hingis' matches — 43 minutes to beat Denisa Chladkova on Thursday night — have left the world number one plenty of time to sample some New York sights. The 16-year-old Swiss visited the Museum of Modern Art, and saw a movie about Picasso and Van Gogh. Hingis had planned to make the trip incognito, but was recognized by bystanders after about 15 minutes in the ticket queue. She went for a stroll in Central Park with her mother and coach Melanie Molitor. She also tried out some rollerblades, but Hingis, a keen equestrienne who owns two horses herself, said she was saving up her horse back riding expedition for the second week of the tournament.



Ninth seed Mary Pierce from France returns the ball during her match against Natasha Zvereva from Belarus which she won 7-6, 6-1 (Reuters photo)

TODAY AT

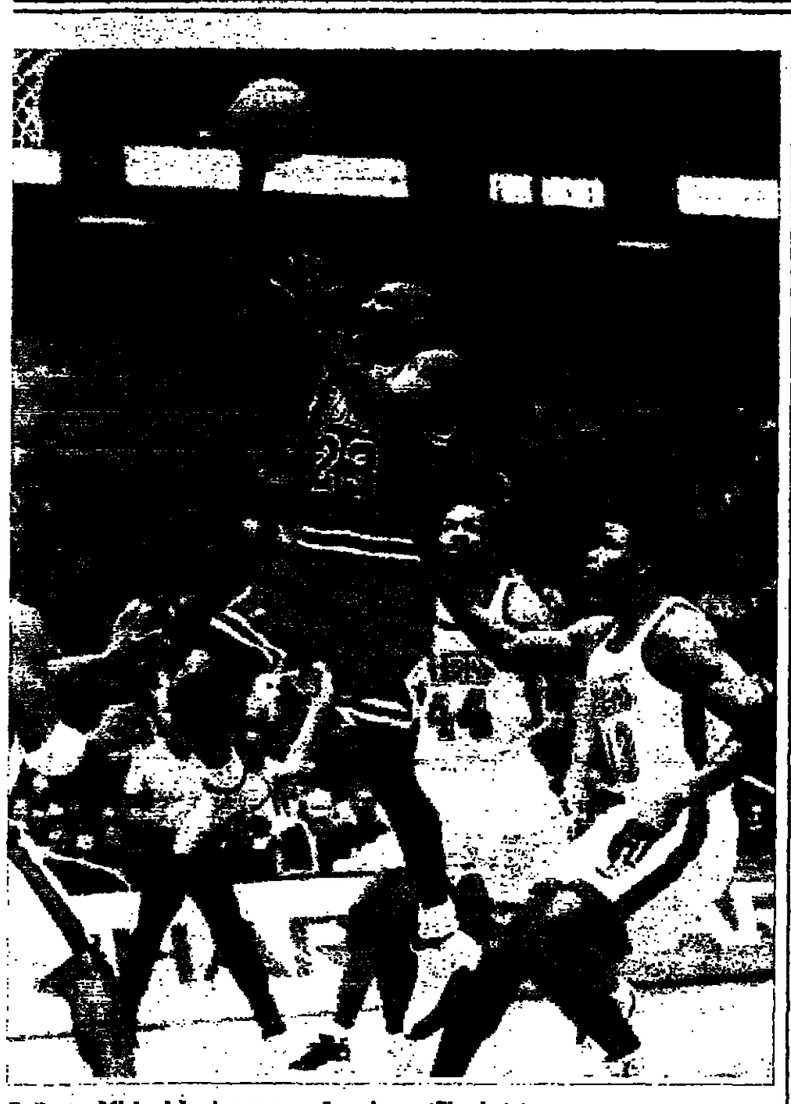
CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"
Steven Spielberg's
THE LOST WORLD
(JURASSIC PARK)
Starring: Jeff Goldblum & Julian Moore
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
Jim Carrey ... in
LIAR LIAR
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Brian Brosworth... in
ONE TOUGH BASTARD
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
The movie event of the summer is here
Arnold Schwarzenegger ...in
BATMAN & ROBIN
(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
ACE VENTURA 1
Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155
The satirical play
AMN AI AI YA HO
performance starts at 8:30 p.m.
The theatre is closed every Friday.
For reservations call 625155



Bulls star Michael Jordan goes up for a layup (file photo)

Michael is back, and Bulls look like NBA title favourites again

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan is coming back, so is Phil Jackson. Scottie Pippen never left. And Dennis Rodman is expected to bring his foul mouth and lingerie collection back to town for one more season-long party.

The hurricane of panic that blew through the windy city shortly after the Bulls won their fifth National Basketball Association title has subsided. Chicago fans again are sporting smug smiles as they begin planning for next June's championship celebration in Grant Park.

Now that Jordan has agreed to another record-setting one-year contract —$33 million, a source close to the team said — only the Bulls' opponents have reason to worry.

For example, how does Pat Riley motivate his Miami Heat after publicly stating that Chicago is a championship lock as long as Jordan is wearing red and black?

Riley and the rest of the league's coaches wish that Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf and general manager Jerry Krause would finally get on with the rebuilding process they have been threatening for months.

Reinsdorf said he doesn't want the Bulls to be the next Boston Celtics, a once-proud franchise now in disarray. Krause said next season will be Jackson's last as coach. Pippen, dangled as trade bait before the draft and still not assured of spending the entire 1997-98 season with the Bulls, said it will be his final year in Chicago.

Although Jordan wanted a guarantee that Pippen, his close friend and fellow All-Star, won't be traded, Krause said no such language exists in Jordan's new contract.

"I can tell you flat-out," Krause said, "it isn't in there."

Neither Krause nor Jordan's agent, David Falk, would comment on the value of the contract, which follows Jordan's record $30.14 million deal last season.

But reports that he will receive anywhere from $36 million to $41 million "are way out of line," said a source who requested anonymity. "The number is $33 million," still the highest salary ever for an athlete in a team sport.

Falk said that although he, Reinsdorf and Jordan worked out terms of the contract in a brief meeting Tuesday in Las Vegas, "these things are never easy."

"Michael wouldn't have accepted an agreement unless he deemed it to be fair," Falk said Thursday. "But determining what's fair for maybe the greatest athlete in the history of sports ... we're dealing with uncharted waters."

Just because Jordan signed a one-year deal, it doesn't mean he'll play only one more season.

"There's no reason to make any decisions now," Falk said. "But Michael certainly has a lot of great basketball left in him."

Last season, at 34, Jordan led the league in scoring for the ninth time. He was edged by karl malone for a fifth regular-season MVP award but then beat Malone's Utah Jazz in the title series to win his fifth NBA finals MVP.

Jordan is the league's all-time leader in scoring average, both in the regular season (31.7 points) and playoffs (33.6), and has an unmatched will to win.

He carried the Bulls to titles in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996 and 1997. He retired in '93, playing baseball for most of two years, and the Houston Rockets reigned until Jordan resumed his basketball career full-time.

Krause said the Bulls' next order of business is signing Rodman, the cross-dressing, tattoo-covered showman who is the NBA's best rebounder.

Jordan, Pippen, Jackson and Krause all say they want Rodman back. And the "worm" wants to return so badly that he's willing to give the Bulls a behaviour guarantee.

"He'll play for free if he doesn't deserve the money," Dwight Manley, Rodman's agent, said Thursday. "If he doesn't perform — the real meaning of that is he's physically able to play but is suspended for misbehaviour — he wouldn't expect to be paid."

Rodman, 36, lost much of what was supposed to be $ 9 million in salary last season because he was suspended three times. He also was suspended once the previous season.



A large banner with the official Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympics emblem adorns the windows above the crowd attending the unveiling ceremony in Abravanel Hall August 29. The theme of the logo, which depicts the colours in Utah's landscape, are contrast, culture and courage (Reuters photo)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kaiserslautern storm on

BONN (AFP) — Two goals from Czech international Pavel Kuka fired unbeaten Kaiserslautern to a 3-1 win at Bochum in the German Bundesliga on Friday. Kaiserslautern lead the table on 13 points, six ahead of a group of six teams, including champions Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, who have seven points having played a game less. In Friday's other match Hertha Berlin's rocky start to life in the top flight continued with a 2-0 home defeat by Hamburg.

Metz win 2-1

PARIS (AFP) — An 89th-minute goal by Robert Pires gave Metz a stunning 2-1 win at champions Monaco on Friday, maintaining their 100 per cent record this season. Pires volleyed home an unlikely winner for the visitors after Monaco had roundly dominated proceedings. Metz now lead the table on 15 points, six clear of Paris Saint-Germain who have a game in hand. Marseille moved into third place on eight points after a 1-1 draw at Guingamp on Friday.

McRae confident in Finland

JYVASKYLA, Finland (AFP) — Britain's Colin McRae was in confident mood after the opening leg of the Rally of Finland on Friday. McRae's Subaru Impreza was lying fifth, nine seconds adrift of leader Marcus Gronholm of Finland in a Toyota Corolla. But the Scot said starting behind the leaders in Saturday's second stage would benefit him. "The stages have been getting much rougher as more cars have been going over them but tomorrow our position will benefit us because the smooth nature of those stages means that the cars in front of us will clear the roads of loose gravel and give us a cleaner run," said McRae. Stage favourite and current world championship leader Tommi Makinen of Finland steered his Mitsubishi Lancer to fourth place, eight seconds off the pace of 29-year-old Gronholm.

Leonardo signs for AC Milan

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian midfielder Leonardo ended uncertainty over his future on Friday by signing a three-year deal with Italian Serie A giants AC Milan. No details of the transfer fee involved were revealed by PSG, though Milan are believed to have paid around 70 million francs (about $11 million) for the player. "AC Milan is the greatest club in the world with a wonderful tradition," said Leonardo. "The fact that (Milan coach) Fabio Capello and (president) Silvio Berlusconi wanted me was very important in helping me decide." Leonardo, who will be 28 on September 5, will play his last match for PSG on Saturday night in a French First Division match against Rennes at the Parc des Princes. The Brazilian, who arrived at PSG at the start of the 1996-97 season, had two years of his contract to run with the French club.

Holyfield, Moorer fight for heavyweight titles Nov. 8

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Evander Holyfield returns to the ring, and one of this city's biggest casino operators returns to big-time boxing, when Holyfield meets fellow heavyweight champion Michael Moorer Nov. 8.

Holyfield will try to unify two parts of the heavyweight title when he meets Moorer in his first fight since earning $35 million to have his ears bitten by Mike Tyson June 28.

It also will be a chance for revenge by Holyfield, who lost his WBA and IBF crowns to Moorer in a close decision April 22, 1994.

The fight was bought by the Mirage Hotel-Casino, which was once a major player in the fight game but has not held a big fight since Riddick Bowe beat Holyfield to win the undisputed heavyweight title five years ago.

It will be held, though, at UNLV's campus arena, which seats up to 19,000 for boxing.

Promoter Don King confirmed Friday that the Mirage had bought the fight, and said a press conference would be held next Wednesday in New York for the formal announcement.

Holyfield, the WBA heavyweight champion, reportedly will get $20 million to fight Moorer, who holds the IBF version of the title and will be paid about $8 million. The other major title, that of the WBC, is held by Lennox Lewis, who will defend against Andrew Golota Oct. 4.

Holyfield, the last heavyweight champion to defend the undisputed title in the ring, has said he wants to unify the three pieces of the crown again before retiring.

Holyfield gained a newfound celebrity status in the wake of the biting that led Tyson to be banned from boxing for at least a year and left Holyfield with the WBA title he first won from Tyson last November.

But King reportedly had trouble selling the Holyfield-Moorer fight, which was being shopped around for a site fee of $ 5 million to $6 million.

The MGM Grand Hotel-Casino, which has a contract with Tyson and King, did not bid for the fight, saying it was staying out of boxing for at least the rest of the year in the wake of troubles after the Holyfield-Tyson fight that forced it to close the hotel's casino for a few hours.

King said that he also talked to the Las Vegas Hilton, Madison Square Garden in New York and the Georgia Dome in Atlanta about staging the fight.



Aisha Ayash adjusts a crash helmet at the Middle East's first women's car speed tests, held at the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan. Twenty-two women's teams competed in the tests (Reuters photo)

Organisers pleased with Kingdom's first all-women's speed test

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Organisers of the first all-women's speed test which was held at the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) Friday afternoon

are very happy with the results and overall interest in the event.

Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal, 22 women out of an original list of 25 took part.

"This all-women speed test is the first of its kind in Jordan, the Middle East and the probably the world," said Mohammad Farawati, head of the auto sports committee at Al Aswaq newspaper, who initiated the idea following a seminar held under the title of "Jordanian auto sports — reality and prospects."

"We were questioned by Randa Al Nabulsi (a well-known Jordanian rally driver) about the lack of interest in women's sports and in women's participation in auto sports in particular, which in turn encouraged us to organise such an event," he added

"This speed test was held in cooperation with RACJ and Al Aswaq newspaper," said Bader Rashid, press officer and member of the organising committee at RACJ.

He said the RACJ was pleased over the success of such an event and that participation was much better than expected for the first time. He added the event is likely to draw more participants in the future, which in turn will make the competition more intense because of acquired experience by the participants.

After the success of this speed test the RACJ plans to include all women events in the schedule of motor activities in the near future. "Speed tests are an opportunity to demonstrate good driving capabilities and competition without compromising safety for both competitors and spectators alike," Rashid noted.

The women looked tense and unsure of themselves for the first round of the speed test; but the second round showed better performance by the competitors who increased their speed and achieved better finishing times than the first round.

The winner of this speed test was Tala Al Shawa with an overall time of 2 minutes 24.15 seconds. The second place finisher was Maya Al Mufti with an overall time of 2:31.36 followed by Suzanne Al Tabaa in third place, Hala Al Tarazi fourth and and Dina Al Rifai fifth.

Tala Shawa was also the winner and official record holder (for the women's record) at Al Rumman Hill Climb earlier this month.

There was also inter-family competition between two sisters who had husbands as co-drivers. The two sisters are Suzanne and Suha Tabaa'. Suzanne beat Suha and achieved third in the overall timing and the first in a husband-wife competition.

Most of the competitors drove in their own cars except for a few who drove in cars donated by private firms and individuals.

Something old and something new as NFL kicks-off

By The Associated Press

GUARD BRUCE matthews will find himself in a new city Sunday — Memphis.

Matthews, who started 212 games for the Houston Oilers, will start the first National Football League regular-season game for the transplanted Tennessee Oilers when they play the Oakland Raiders.

Curiosity could be the magnet that draws many people to the liberty bowl for the American football game, but Steve McNair, Tennessee's starting quarterback, thinks they'll soon become Oilers rooters.

"The fans will grow to love us," he said. "Especially as we go through the season and we win and keep winning."

The Oilers were 8-8 in their final season in Houston.

Joining McNair in the Oilers backfield will be Eddie George, who led NFL rookies in rushing with 1,368 yards in 1996.

Jeff George, who left the Atlanta Falcons after a dispute with coach June Jones last season, will start at quarterback for the Raiders, who, led by Napoleon Kaufman, had the league's third-best running game in 1996 with a 135.9-yard average.

In other Sunday games, Dallas will be Pittsburgh, San Diego at New England, the New York Jets at Seattle, Kansas City at Denver, Minnesota at Buffalo, Indianapolis at Miami, Jacksonville at Baltimore, San Francisco at Tampa Bay, Atlanta at Detroit, Philadelphia at the New York Giants, New Orleans at St. Louis, Arizona at Cincinnati and Washington at Carolina.

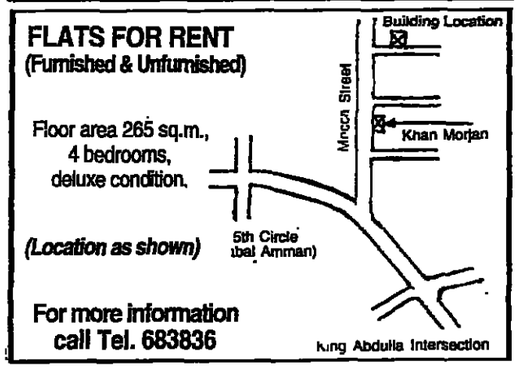
Chicago will play at Green Bay Monday night.

FLATS FOR RENT
(Furnished & Unfurnished)

Floor area 265 sq.m.,
4 bedrooms,
deluxe condition.

(Location as shown)

For more information
call Tel. 683836



FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT
Ground floor, 205 sq.m., separate entrance, 3 sl. rooms, 3 bathrooms, garden. 7th Circle, Musa Al Taib Str., parallel to Abdullah Ghosheh Str., opposite to Geneva Hotel.
Please call Tel.: 821082

Two Furnished Apartments In Western Shmeisani For Rent
The first is 200 sq.m. independent first floor apartment consisting of two bedrooms, guest room, sitting room, dining, glassed-in veranda, garden, garage.
The second is a 220 sq.m. second floor apartment consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, glassed-in veranda.
Each of the two apartments has independent central heating, telephone, maid room, spacious kitchen and luxurious furniture.
Please call Tel. 665711, 664256

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
Area 340 sq.m. Consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 balconies. Impressive building, American style furniture. All appliances. Suitable for diplomats. Annual rent: JD10,000.
Please call 5528099 or 5520377

FOR RENT
A deluxe furnished apartment in a good location. Consists of three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a fully equipped kitchen.
Tel. #703675

Saudi court finds British nurse guilty of murder — sources

DUBAI (AP) — A Saudi court has found a British nurse guilty of murdering an Australian colleague and has sentenced her to death, sources close to the case said Saturday.

Deborah Parry was found guilty of murdering Yvonne Gilford, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Her co-defendant, Lucille McLauchlan, was found guilty of being an accessory to murder and given an undisclosed prison sentence, the sources said.

The three-judge panel issued the verdict on August 17, but it has not been made public. An appeals court in the capital Riyadh is reviewing the case as part of a mandatory appeals process that could last months or even years, the sources said.

In London, the British Foreign Office cast doubt on the report of a guilty verdict.

A Foreign Office spokesman said he thought it unlikely. The foreign office had heard the same report in the past two weeks and had not been able to verify it.

"We seek to verify it each time it surfaces," said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In confessions they later retracted, Parry, 38, admitted to stabbing Gilford, while McLauchlan, 31, said she had put a pillow over Gilford's face.

According to the death certificate and forensic reports, the 55-year-old Gilford died from multiple stab wounds and not suffocation.

Defence lawyers argued that McLauchlan had not caused the victim's death, and had only tried to stifle her cries with a pillow, a source who attended the trial told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from Saudi Arabia.

The nurses' lawyers have said the pair confessed only because they were told it would mean they could go home without facing prosecution.

According to Islamic law, the court decides on guilt and issues a sentence accordingly. The victim's closest relatives have the right to demand or commute the death sentence, which in Saudi Arabia is usually carried out by public beheading.

The victim's brother, Frank Gilford, has said repeatedly that he wants the nurses executed if they are found guilty.

The nurses' families in Britain could not be contacted for comment, nor could their lawyers nor the lawyers of Gilford's family.

Parry and McLauchlan reportedly were detained after they were seen in a video store using the dead woman's cash cards.

The body of Gilford was found December 11 in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran, where the three worked. She had been stabbed 13 times, beaten and suffocated.

Dozens of people, mostly Asians convicted of drug smuggling or Saudis found guilty of rape and murder, are decapitated under Saudi Arabia's Islamic laws every year.

But no Westerner, male or female, has ever been beheaded in Saudi Arabia, a close ally of the U.S. and a traditionally pro-Western country.

Yilmaz party expels two far-right deputies in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's conservative Motherland Party on Saturday expelled two far-right deputies for cooperating with the Islamist-led opposition in trying to defeat the government in a parliamentary vote.

Cemil Cicek and Ali Coskun acted along with the opposition and voted against a government-backed anti-Islamic school law in parliament in mid-August.

Motherland's disciplinary committee said in a statement that it had ruled to expel the two men from the party in retaliation for their move to counter Mr. Yilmaz's order to support the bill.

In the vote, parliament passed the controversial school bill, which has angered the Islamist Welfare Party of former premier Necmettin Erbakan and its supporters, despite efforts by the opposition and the two dissident Motherland deputies.

Despite Saturday's expulsions, Mr. Yilmaz's secular three-party coalition government, also backed by a left-wing party and nearly 20 independents, still has a clear majority in the 550-seat parliament.

Mr. Yilmaz replaced Mr. Erbakan, who resigned in late June following months of rifts between the Islamist-led former government and Turkey's secular army generals over the increase of Islamists influence.

Under the new law, hundreds of state-run secondary schools with religious education and training imams, or local Islamist leaders, will be closed.

Survivors of worst Algerian massacre tell horrific story

PARIS (R) — Survivors of Algeria's single most bloody massacre told in harrowing reports on Saturday how "terrorists" blasted their way into village houses to hack to death children and women begging for their lives.

Some pregnant women were disembowelled. Those fleeing were shot or axed and their bodies burned. Scores of young girls were taken away to provide sex for the attackers.

At least 98 people were killed and 120 wounded during the four-hour nightmare in Sidi Rais south of Algiers, according to official figures.

The authorities blamed Islamists for the killings. About 60,000 people have been killed in the north African country since the authorities in January 1992 scrapped a general election dominated by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

"We cried with all our force but no one came to rescue us," one traumatised young man told Al Watan newspaper, which reported witnesses saying more than 300 were killed.

Police in Sidi Rais said 230 had died: 90 women, 30 babies, 55 children and the same number of men.

State television showed smoke rising from blackened houses and rescuers carrying limp forms in blankets to ambulances. Villagers watched silently or wept.

The slaughter followed five nights of other massacres, two bombs in Algiers, and one in Oran city in the West, in which a total of more than 300 other people were killed.

Prime Minister Ahmad Ouyahia went on television to promise more security measures for rural communities, the targets of most massacres.

The government vowed that "terrorists" — Algeria's official term for Islamist rebels — would be eradicated. But Algerians, who have heard this since violence erupted in 1992, demanded more concrete measures.



A group of volunteers dig Saturday in the region of Rais the tombs of the 200 to 300 Algerians, according to local residents, who were massacred early Friday in the bloodiest single atrocity in Algeria's five year's of blood-letting (AFP photo)

Adding to the horror of Sidi Rais, scores of the youngest and most beautiful women were dragged off for "temporary marriages" — forced sex before being abandoned and killed.

Liberte newspaper said about 100 women, none older than 24, were taken. "Kill us...we would sooner die....." it quoted one as screaming.

Some of the victims were guests who had come to celebrate a boy's circumcision.

"There were a lot of guests. The terrorists burst in and cut the throats of everyone there except the women they decided to take with them... They took the young girls, young wives....." one young man told Al Watan.

Another young man, crumpled up near a truck, could be seen sobbing. "They took his wife and daughter," said a neighbour, trying to comfort him.

Le Matin newspaper said 50 women were taken.

One young woman who survived told how several families barricaded themselves in one villa. The rebels blasted down the door, surged in and cut the throats of everyone.

Others set fire to houses where residents had fled to rooftops, while those caught fleeing on foot were shot or axed, doused in petrol and set on fire.

Two newspapers on Saturday said more than 40 people had been killed in two other massacres the same night. Liberte said 38 people had their throats cut in Maalba some 225 kilometres south of Algiers. Five were killed, and two girls kidnapped, in Frais Vallon district of Algiers.

Al Watan said 40 people died in Maalba, including four children aged 12 to 14. Three teenage girls were abducted.

Isolated communities have long feared attacks. Just two days before Sidi Rais, 64 people were killed in Beni Ali in the same area.

"They came from out of the mountain crying like jackals. They cut off the electricity, then the heads of the people and put them outside the doors," Al Khabar newspaper said of that massacre.

Hundreds in the area fled isolated communities to seek safety in Blida and other towns.

The authorities have armed some villagers — formed into bands called "patriots" — to protect some communities since the massacres started last November. But many more have said they were left defenceless.

In mounting criticism of the authorities, voiced by newspapers and opposition politicians after the Sidi Rais slaughter, Al Watan said Saturday: "Algeria is the only country in the world where assassins return regularly and in total impunity to the place of the crimes."

Cairo court rejects lawsuit against CNN in circumcision case

CAIRO (AP) — A court Saturday rejected a $500 million lawsuit against CNN that claimed the network had damaged Egypt's reputation by airing footage of a barber performing ritual genital cutting on a 10-year-old girl.

Judge Alaa Abbas said lawyer Mustafa Ashoub had no legal standing for filing the case against the U.S.-based CNN. Mr. Ashoub filed the case in his own name and on behalf of the girl's father, Fathia Hamed.

Mr. Abbas said Mr. Ashoub was not directly harmed by the incident. The judge also rejected Mr. Ashoub's later attempt to add Mr. Hamed's name to the case.

Mr. Ashoub immediately said he would file a new lawsuit in the name of Najla Fathi, the girl who underwent the ritual cutting.

Mr. Ashoub had filed the case against CNN and an Egyptian reporter, saying that the network had damaged Egypt's reputation.

"It's all right to do shows [on female circumcision] but you shouldn't show it in this dirty manner," Mr. Ashoub said before the ruling.

CNN "showed Arab and Muslim people as being bloody and vulgar people," he said.

He refused to comment after the ruling.

In September 1994, CNN International aired footage showing 10-year-old Fathia screaming as a barber cut away her clitoris. Egyptians accused the network of trying to damage Egypt's reputation by airing the footage as the country hosted a U.N. population conference, which Egypt hoped would showcase the nation's development.

Mr. Ashoub demanded $250 million in compensation for Fathia and her father, even though the family had agreed to the taping. Mr. Ashoub also demanded another $250 million for development programmes for Egyptian women and children to help stamp out such practices.

CNN has said that the show was not meant to tarnish Egypt's reputation but to show that the operation is commonly performed.

Health Minister Ismail Sallam, has since banned female genital mutilation in hospitals and clinics.

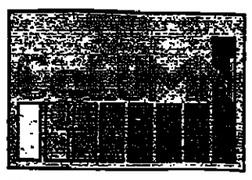
A 1996 government survey indicated that more than 90 per cent of Egyptian women have undergone ritual genital cutting, which ranges from cutting the hood of the clitoris to removing the entire clitoris and tissue surrounding the entrance to the vagina.

Typically performed on girls between 8 and 12 years old, it can cause haemorrhaging, scar tissue, cysts, sexual difficulties and problems in childbirth. Many believe the operation curbs a girl's sexual appetite or enhances cleanliness.

It is often carried out by midwives and barbers in villages and poor urban areas.

The court also rejected a $100,000 lawsuit by journalist Nivine Yehia against Mr. Ashoub and Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif. Ms. Yehia, the reporter named in Ashoub's suit, said she had been defamed in the Egyptian press, which had called her a traitor for organising the CNN shoot.





Thousands of Copts flock to see "Virgin Mary"

SHENTENA AL HAGAR (AFP) — Thousands of Coptic Christians have flocked to this village north of Cairo over the last two weeks to see what has been described as images of the Virgin Mary hovering at night over a church. "I saw the Virgin Mary with my own eyes on Friday and Saturday night," said Mervat Nabil, 42, a teacher. "Her glowing white silhouette has appeared three times. "She circled around the church tower and nodded to her followers below," she said

Safari park offers 'gay' animals theme day

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Dutch safari park is organising a special tour for homosexuals so they can see "gay" behaviour in the animal kingdom. Up to 3,000 homosexuals are expected to attend next month's "theme day" at the Beekse Bergen Safari Park in southern Netherlands. "Our guides will tell stories about animals and their homosexual behaviours," park spokesman Goof Lukken said Thursday. Lukken said it is believed that some 300 species display homosexual behaviours, but he stressed they shouldn't be compared to human homosexuality.

Westminster Abbey to charge admission fee

LONDON (R) — London's Westminster Abbey will introduce an entrance fee of $8.10 next March to try to turn back a rising tide of visitors, a spokesman said on Friday. More than two million people a year visit the Abbey, a stone's throw from the Houses of Parliament, and Church officials say the often noisy crowds are ruining its spiritual atmosphere. "churches are there for people to worship in and they are being stopped from doing that because of the hustle and bustle and all the thousands of tourists," the spokesman said.

Hooker wants to play 'the blues' in his own club

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Buddy Guy did it. So did B.B. King. Now, John Lee Hooker is set to open his own blues club in San Francisco. John Lee Hooker's Boom Boom Room will celebrate its grand opening October 3, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Wednesday. "When I ain't working, I'll be there," said Hooker. "I'll greet the people and play the blues. "If B.B. can do it, I can do it," said Hooker, who celebrated a birthday last week that he denied was his 80th.

Sex line to promote condom use among homosexuals

NIJMEGEN (AFP) — A Dutch local health authority is to use a telephone sex line to encourage homosexuals to wear condoms, the authority said here Saturday. The authority is to hire an erotic phone line for two hours a week, staffed by a volunteer prepared to talk about callers' wildest fantasies as long as the importance of wearing a condom is mentioned at some point during the conversation. Clients will not be told they are connected to a service set up to work for the prevention of AIDS.